

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to solar energy systems; amending s.
 3 377.705, F.S.; revising legislative findings and
 4 intent; defining the term "recognized certifying
 5 entity"; providing applicability of certain standards
 6 and criteria for solar energy systems manufactured or
 7 sold in the state; providing for solar energy systems
 8 manufactured or sold in the state to be certified
 9 pursuant to National Renewable Energy Laboratory
 10 standards; providing an effective date.

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 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 14 Section 1. Section 377.705, Florida Statutes, is amended
 15 to read:

16 377.705 Solar Energy Center; development of solar energy
 17 standards.—

18 (1) SHORT TITLE.—This act shall be known and may be cited
 19 as the Solar Energy Standards Act of 1976.

20 (2) LEGISLATIVE ~~FINDINGS AND INTENT~~.—

21 ~~(a) Because of increases in the cost of conventional fuel,~~
 22 ~~certain applications of solar energy are becoming competitive,~~
 23 ~~particularly when life-cycle costs are considered. It is the~~
 24 ~~intent of the Legislature in formulating a sound and balanced~~
 25 ~~energy policy for the state to encourage the development of an~~

26 | ~~alternative energy capability in the form of incident solar~~
 27 | ~~energy.~~

28 | ~~(b) Toward this purpose,~~ The Legislature intends to
 29 | ~~provide incentives for the production and sale of, and to set~~
 30 | ~~standards for, solar energy systems. Such standards shall ensure~~
 31 | that solar energy systems manufactured or sold within the state
 32 | are effective and represent a high level of quality of
 33 | materials, workmanship, and design.

34 | (3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

35 | (a) "Center" means ~~is defined as~~ the Florida Solar Energy
 36 | Center of the Board of Governors.

37 | (b) "Recognized certifying entity" means any entity that
 38 | certifies equipment which collects and uses incident solar
 39 | energy pursuant to standards established by the National
 40 | Renewable Energy Laboratory.

41 | (c) ~~(b)~~ "Solar energy systems" means ~~is defined as~~
 42 | equipment which provides for the collection and use of incident
 43 | solar energy for water heating, space heating or cooling, or
 44 | other applications which normally require or would require a
 45 | conventional source of energy such as petroleum products,
 46 | natural gas, or electricity and which performs primarily with
 47 | solar energy. In such other systems in which solar energy is
 48 | used in a supplemental way, only those components which collect
 49 | and transfer solar energy shall be included in this definition.

50 | (4) FLORIDA SOLAR ENERGY CENTER TO SET STANDARDS, REQUIRE

51 DISCLOSURE, SET TESTING FEES.—

52 (a) The center shall develop and adopt ~~promulgate~~
53 standards for solar energy systems manufactured or sold in this
54 state based on the best currently available information and
55 shall consult with scientists, engineers, or persons in research
56 centers who are engaged in the construction of, experimentation
57 with, and research of solar energy systems to properly identify
58 the most reliable designs and types of solar energy systems.
59 This paragraph does not apply to solar energy systems certified
60 pursuant to National Renewable Energy Laboratory standards.

61 (b) The center shall establish criteria for testing
62 performance of solar energy systems and shall maintain the
63 necessary capability for testing or evaluating performance of
64 solar energy systems. The center may accept results of tests on
65 solar energy systems made by other organizations, companies, or
66 persons if ~~when~~ such tests are conducted according to the
67 criteria established by the center and if ~~when~~ the testing
68 entity does not have a ~~has no~~ vested interest in the
69 manufacture, distribution, or sale of solar energy systems. This
70 paragraph does not apply to solar energy systems certified
71 pursuant to National Renewable Energy Laboratory standards.

72 (c) The center shall be entitled to receive a testing fee
73 sufficient to cover the costs of such testing. All testing fees
74 shall be transmitted by the center to the Chief Financial
75 Officer to be deposited in the Solar Energy Center Testing Trust

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76 Fund, which is ~~hereby~~ created in the State Treasury, and
77 disbursed for the payment of expenses incurred in testing solar
78 energy systems.

79 (d) All solar energy systems manufactured or sold in the
80 state must meet the standards established by the center or by a
81 recognized certifying entity ~~and shall display accepted results~~
82 ~~of approved performance tests in a manner prescribed by the~~
83 ~~center.~~

84 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.