

By Senator Dockery

15-1520-06

See HB

1                                   A bill to be entitled

2           An act relating to solar energy; creating s.

3           377.707, F.S.; creating the Florida Solar

4           Energy Incentives Program; providing

5           definitions; providing for a continuing

6           appropriation to support solar energy product

7           development and fund incentive programs;

8           providing rebates for the installation of

9           certain solar energy systems on commercial and

10          residential buildings; providing eligibility

11          requirements; providing rebate amounts;

12          directing the Florida Public Service Commission

13          to adopt rules; requiring the Florida Solar

14          Energy Center to certify the performance of

15          certain solar equipment; providing an effective

16          date.

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

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20           Section 1. Section 377.707, Florida Statutes, is

21           created to read:

22           377.707 Florida Solar Energy Incentives Program.--

23           (1) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, unless the

24           context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the

25           following meanings:

26           (a) "Approved metering equipment" means a device

27           capable of measuring the energy output of a solar thermal

28           system that has been approved by the commission.

29           (b) "Certified" means tested by the Florida Solar

30           Energy Center to verify rated output or thermal performance.

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1           (c) "Commission" means the Florida Public Service  
2 Commission.

3           (d) "Interconnected" means connected to a utility's  
4 electrical grid.

5           (e) "Solar photovoltaic system" means a solar energy  
6 system, including devices and related equipment, with a peak  
7 generating capacity of 100 kilowatts or less used for  
8 generating electricity for use in a residence, a place of  
9 business, a publicly owned or operated facility, or a facility  
10 owned or operated by a private, not-for-profit organization.

11           (f) "Solar thermal system" means a solar energy device  
12 that provides domestic hot water for use in a residence, a  
13 place of business, a publicly owned or operated facility, or a  
14 facility owned or operated by a private, not-for-profit  
15 organization.

16           (2) SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING.--The sum of \$1.2  
17 million in recurring general revenue is appropriated to the  
18 Grants and Donations Trust Fund of the Board of Governors each  
19 year for 5 years beginning with the 2006-2007 fiscal year and  
20 continuing through the 2010-2011 fiscal year for the purposes  
21 of supporting the development of a solar energy product market  
22 in the state and implementing this section.

23           (3) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INCENTIVE PROGRAM.--To the  
24 extent that funds are available pursuant to subsection (2), an  
25 owner or tenant of property in this state that is a residence,  
26 a place of business, a publicly owned or operated facility, or  
27 a facility owned or operated by a private, not-for-profit  
28 organization is entitled to a rebate for expenditures made by  
29 the owner or tenant for a solar photovoltaic system that is  
30 installed in accordance with this subsection after July 1,  
31 2006, and that will be interconnected.

1           (a) Eligibility requirements.--A solar photovoltaic  
2 system qualifies for a rebate if:

3           1. The system is installed by a state-licensed master  
4 electrician, electrical contractor, or solar contractor.

5           2. The system complies with state interconnection  
6 standards as provided by the commission.

7           3. The system complies with all applicable building  
8 codes as defined by the local jurisdictional authority.

9           4. The system includes minimum service and warranty  
10 contracts.

11           (b) Rebate amounts.--The initial rebate amount shall  
12 be set at \$4 per watt and decrease by 50 cents per watt each  
13 year for 5 years. If the solar equipment is manufactured  
14 within the state, the initial rebate amount shall be set at \$5  
15 per watt and decrease by 50 cents per watt each year for 5  
16 years. In the case of a newly constructed residence, the  
17 rebate must be available to the original owner or occupant  
18 using the dwelling as his or her principal residence. The  
19 maximum allowable rebate per solar photovoltaic system  
20 installation shall be as follows:

21           1. For a residence, \$20,000.

22           2. For a place of business, a publicly owned or  
23 operated facility, or a facility owned or operated by a  
24 private, not-for-profit organization, \$100,000.

25           (4) SOLAR THERMAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM.--To the extent  
26 that funds are available pursuant to subsection (2), an owner  
27 or tenant of property in this state that is a residence, a  
28 place of business, a publicly owned or operated facility, or a  
29 facility owned or operated by a private, not-for-profit  
30 organization is entitled to a rebate for expenditures made by  
31 the owner or tenant for a solar thermal system that is

1 installed in accordance with this subsection after July 1,  
2 2006.

3 (a) Eligibility requirements.--A solar thermal system  
4 qualifies for a rebate if:

5 1. The system is installed by a state-licensed solar  
6 or plumbing contractor.

7 2. The system complies with all applicable building  
8 codes as defined by the local jurisdictional authority.

9 3. The system includes minimum service and warranty  
10 contracts.

11 (b) Rebate amounts.--Authorized rebates for  
12 installation of solar thermal systems shall be as follows:

13 1. For a residence, the rebate amount is \$300. If the  
14 solar equipment is manufactured within the state, the rebate  
15 amount is \$500.

16 2. For a place of business, a publicly owned or  
17 operated facility, or a facility owned or operated by a  
18 private, not-for-profit organization, the rebate amount is \$15  
19 per 1,000 BTU as verified through the use of approved metering  
20 equipment. The maximum allowable rebate is \$5,000.

21 (5) RULES.--The commission shall adopt rules pursuant  
22 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 necessary to implement this  
23 section, including amending current interconnection standards  
24 for solar energy systems up to 100 kilowatts and providing for  
25 net metering of solar energy systems up to 100 kilowatts in  
26 accordance with current Institute of Electrical and  
27 Electronics Engineers, Inc., standards for solar energy  
28 systems.

29 (6) PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATION.--The Florida Solar  
30 Energy Center shall certify the performance of solar equipment  
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1 sold and installed in the state in accordance with this  
2 section and s. 377.705.

3           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.  
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