

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to solar energy; creating s. 377.707,
 3 F.S.; creating the "Florida Solar Incentive Program";
 4 providing definitions; establishing the Solar Energy
 5 Development Fund; establishing the Photovoltaic Incentive
 6 Program; providing rebates for the installation of solar
 7 energy systems on commercial and residential buildings;
 8 providing eligibility requirements; directing the Florida
 9 Public Service Commission to adopt rules; providing funds
 10 for certification of certain equipment; providing an
 11 effective date.

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

15 Section 1. Section 377.707, Florida Statutes, is created
 16 to read:

17 377.707 Florida Solar Incentive Program.--

18 (1) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, unless the
 19 context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the
 20 following meanings:

21 (a) "Certified" means tested by the Florida Solar Energy
 22 Center to verify rated output or thermal performance.

23 (b) "Commission" means the Florida Public Service
 24 Commission.

25 (c) "Interconnected" means connected to a utility's
 26 electrical grid.

27 (d) "Solar photovoltaic system" means a solar energy
 28 system, including devices and related equipment, with a peak

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29 generating capacity of 100 kilowatts or less used for generating
 30 electricity for use in a residence, place of business, publicly
 31 owned or operated facility, or private, not-for-profit facility.

32 (e) "Solar thermal system" means:

33 1. A solar energy device that provides domestic hot water
 34 for use in connection with a residence, place of business,
 35 publicly owned or operated facility, or private, not-for-profit
 36 facility.

37 2. A solar pool heating system installed in connection
 38 with a place of business, publicly owned or operated facility,
 39 or private, not-for-profit facility.

40 (2) SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT FUND.--A fund shall be
 41 established to support the development of a solar energy product
 42 market in the state through general revenue at a funding level
 43 of \$1.2 million per year for 5 years beginning in the fiscal
 44 year 2006-2007 and continuing through the fiscal year 2010-2011.

45 (3) PHOTOVOLTAIC INCENTIVE PROGRAM.--To the extent that
 46 funds are available in the fund established in subsection (2),
 47 an owner or tenant of residential, commercial, or publicly owned
 48 property located in the state is entitled to a rebate for
 49 expenditures made by the owner or tenant for a solar
 50 photovoltaic system that is installed in accordance with this
 51 subsection after July 1, 2006, that will be interconnected.

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

54 1. The system is installed by a state licensed master
 55 electrician, electrical contractor, or solar contractor.

56 2. The system complies with state interconnection

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57 standards as provided by the commission.

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

60 4. The system includes minimum service and warranty
61 contracts.

62 (b) Rebate amounts.--The initial rebate amount shall be
63 set at \$4 per watt and decrease by \$.50 per watt each year for 5
64 years. If the solar equipment is manufactured within the state,
65 the initial rebate amount shall be set at \$5 per watt and
66 decrease by \$.50 per watt each year for 5 years. In the case of
67 a newly constructed residence, the rebate must be available to
68 the original owner or occupant using the dwelling as his or her
69 principal residence. The maximum allowable rebate per solar
70 energy system installation shall be as follows:

71 1. Twenty thousand dollars on a residence.

72 2. One hundred thousand dollars on a commercial or public
73 building.

74 (c) Rules.--The commission shall adopt rules necessary to
75 implement the provisions of this section, including amending
76 current interconnection standards for solar energy systems up to
77 100 kilowatts and providing for net metering of solar energy
78 systems up to 100 kilowatts as defined under this section and in
79 accordance with current Institute of Electrical and Electronics
80 Engineers, Inc. standards for solar energy systems.

81 (d) Performance certification.--The state shall provide
82 financial support through the Solar Energy Development Fund to
83 the Florida Solar Energy Center to certify the performance of
84 solar equipment sold and installed in the state in accordance

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85 | with s. 377.705.

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