

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Energy Efficiency Incentive
 3 Program; creating the Energy Efficiency Incentive Program;
 4 requiring the Department of Community Affairs to develop a
 5 matching grant program for the purchase of certain water
 6 heaters and a low-interest loan program for the purchase
 7 of certain energy-generation equipment; providing an
 8 effective date.

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

12 Section 1. Energy Efficiency Incentive Program.--

13 (1) MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM.--The Department of Community
 14 Affairs shall develop a matching grant program for local
 15 governments, private utilities, and public utilities that
 16 provide grants to residential consumers for the purchase of
 17 solar water heaters or tankless water heaters. Eligible grants
 18 shall be in an amount of up to 50 percent of the cost of the
 19 water heater and shall not exceed \$500. The program may match up
 20 to one-half the amount of each eligible grant.

21 (2) LOW-INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM.--The Department of
 22 Community Affairs shall develop a low-interest loan program for
 23 residential and business consumers who purchase solar panels for
 24 electricity generation. The interest rate and term for the loans
 25 shall be set by the department, with a maximum interest rate of
 26 2 percent below the average 30-year home mortgage interest rate
 27 and a term not to exceed 30 years. The program may be

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28 | administered directly by and through private and public
29 | utilities.

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