

By Senator Bennett

21-00424A-12

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to solar energy systems; amending s.
3 377.705, F.S.; removing the requirement that the
4 Florida Solar Energy Center set standards for and
5 approve solar energy systems; requiring that a solar
6 energy system manufactured, sold, or installed in the
7 state meet the safety and performance standards
8 established by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.;
9 providing an effective date.

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

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

15 377.705 Solar Energy Center; ~~development of~~ solar energy
16 standards.—

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

19 (2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—

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

27 (b) Toward this purpose, the Legislature intends to provide
28 incentives for the production and sale of, ~~and to set standards~~
29 ~~for,~~ solar energy systems. ~~Such standards shall ensure that~~

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30 ~~solar energy systems manufactured or sold within the state are~~
31 ~~effective and represent a high level of quality of materials,~~
32 ~~workmanship, and design.~~

33 (3) DEFINITIONS.—

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

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

46 (4) ~~FLORIDA SOLAR ENERGY CENTER TO SET STANDARDS, REQUIRE~~
47 ~~DISCLOSURE, SET TESTING FEES.—A solar energy system~~
48 ~~manufactured, sold, or installed in this state must meet only~~
49 ~~the safety and performance standards established by Underwriters~~
50 ~~Laboratories, Inc.~~

51 ~~(a) The center shall develop and promulgate standards for~~
52 ~~solar energy systems manufactured or sold in this state based on~~
53 ~~the best currently available information and shall consult with~~
54 ~~scientists, engineers, or persons in research centers who are~~
55 ~~engaged in the construction of, experimentation with, and~~
56 ~~research of solar energy systems to properly identify the most~~
57 ~~reliable designs and types of solar energy systems.~~

58 ~~(b) The center shall establish criteria for testing~~

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59 ~~performance of solar energy systems and shall maintain the~~
60 ~~necessary capability for testing or evaluating performance of~~
61 ~~solar energy systems. The center may accept results of tests on~~
62 ~~solar energy systems made by other organizations, companies, or~~
63 ~~persons when such tests are conducted according to the criteria~~
64 ~~established by the center and when the testing entity has no~~
65 ~~vested interest in the manufacture, distribution or sale of~~
66 ~~solar energy systems.~~

67 ~~(c) The center shall be entitled to receive a testing fee~~
68 ~~sufficient to cover the costs of such testing. All testing fees~~
69 ~~shall be transmitted by the center to the Chief Financial~~
70 ~~Officer to be deposited in the Solar Energy Center Testing Trust~~
71 ~~Fund, which is hereby created in the State Treasury, and~~
72 ~~disbursed for the payment of expenses incurred in testing solar~~
73 ~~energy systems.~~

74 ~~(d) All solar energy systems manufactured or sold in the~~
75 ~~state must meet the standards established by the center and~~
76 ~~shall display accepted results of approved performance tests in~~
77 ~~a manner prescribed by the center.~~

78 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.