

HB 1089

2015

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to solar energy; reviving, readopting,  
3 and amending s. 377.806, F.S., relating to the Solar  
4 Energy System Incentives Program; authorizing rebates  
5 for a portion of the purchase price of solar energy  
6 systems during a specified period; revising  
7 eligibility requirements; requiring applications for  
8 rebates to include proofs of purchase; requiring the  
9 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to  
10 give priority to residents who have installed a solar  
11 energy system upon a structure that qualifies as low-  
12 income housing; defining the term "low-income  
13 housing"; providing an effective date.

14  
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16  
17 Section 1. Notwithstanding the repeal of section 377.806,  
18 Florida Statutes, in section 9, 2014-154, Laws of Florida,  
19 section 377.806, Florida Statutes, is revived, readopted, and  
20 amended to read:

21 (1) PURPOSE.—The Solar Energy System Incentives Program is  
22 established within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
23 Services to provide financial incentives for the purchase and  
24 installation of solar energy systems. Any resident of the state  
25 who purchases and installs a new solar energy system of 2  
26 kilowatts or larger for a solar photovoltaic system, a solar

27 energy system that provides at least 50 percent of a building's  
 28 hot water consumption for a solar thermal system, or a solar  
 29 thermal pool heater, between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2020  
 30 ~~from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2010,~~ is eligible for a  
 31 rebate on a portion of the purchase price of that solar energy  
 32 system.

33 (2) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM INCENTIVE.—

34 (a) Eligibility requirements.—A solar photovoltaic system  
 35 qualifies for a rebate if:

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

38 2. The system complies with state interconnection  
 39 standards as provided by the Florida Public Service Commission.

40 3. The system complies with all applicable building codes  
 41 as required ~~defined~~ by the Florida Building Code.

42 (b) Rebate amounts.—The rebate amount is \$4 per watt based  
 43 on the total wattage rating of the system. The maximum allowable  
 44 rebate per solar photovoltaic system installation is ~~shall be as~~  
 45 ~~follows:~~

46 1. Twenty thousand dollars for a residence.

47 2. One hundred thousand dollars for a place of business, a  
 48 publicly owned or operated facility, or a facility owned or  
 49 operated by a private, not-for-profit organization, including  
 50 condominiums or apartment buildings.

51 (3) SOLAR THERMAL SYSTEM INCENTIVE.—

52 (a) Eligibility requirements.—A solar thermal system

53 | qualifies for a rebate if:

54 |       1. The system is installed by a state-licensed solar or  
55 | plumbing contractor or a roofing contractor installing standing  
56 | seam hybrid thermal roofs.

57 |       2. The system complies with all applicable building codes  
58 | as required ~~defined~~ by the Florida Building Code.

59 |       (b) Rebate amounts.—~~The~~ authorized rebate ~~rebates~~ for  
60 | installation of solar thermal systems is ~~shall be as follows~~:

61 |           1. Five hundred dollars for a residence.

62 |           2. Fifteen dollars per 1,000 Btu up to a maximum of \$5,000  
63 | for a place of business, a publicly owned or operated facility,  
64 | or a facility owned or operated by a private, not-for-profit  
65 | organization, including condominiums or apartment buildings.

66 |       (4) SOLAR THERMAL POOL HEATER INCENTIVE.—

67 |       (a) Eligibility requirements.—A solar thermal pool heater  
68 | qualifies for a rebate if the system is installed by a state-  
69 | licensed solar or plumbing contractor and the system complies  
70 | with all applicable building codes as required ~~defined~~ by the  
71 | Florida Building Code.

72 |       (b) Rebate amount.—Authorized rebates for installation of  
73 | solar thermal pool heaters are ~~shall be~~ \$100 per installation.

74 |       (5) APPLICATION.—Application for a rebate must be filed  
75 | ~~made~~ within 120 days after the purchase of the solar energy  
76 | equipment and must include proof of purchase.

77 |       (6) REBATE AVAILABILITY.—The department shall determine  
78 | and publish on a regular basis the amount of rebate funds

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79 remaining in each fiscal year. The total dollar amount of all  
80 rebates issued is subject to the total amount of appropriations  
81 in any fiscal year for this program.

82 (a) Priority for low-income residences.—The Department of  
83 Agriculture and Consumer Services shall ensure that 10 percent  
84 of the funds appropriated in a fiscal year is available to  
85 residents eligible for a rebate and who have installed a solar  
86 energy system upon a structure that qualifies as low-income  
87 housing. Such funds, if unexpended, must be used to augment  
88 existing cost-effective energy efficiency measures for low-  
89 income housing. The term "low-income housing" means:

90 1. A residence owned or rented by an individual whose  
91 income is at or below 125 percent of the poverty level; or

92 2. A residential complex in which at least 20 percent of  
93 the total units are sold or rented to individuals whose income  
94 is at or below 125 percent of the poverty level.

95 (b) Rebate rollover.—If funds are insufficient during the  
96 current fiscal year, any requests for rebates received during  
97 that fiscal year may be processed during the following fiscal  
98 year. Requests for rebates received in a fiscal year that are  
99 processed during the following fiscal year shall be given  
100 priority over requests for rebates received during the following  
101 fiscal year.

102 (7) RULES.—The department shall adopt rules ~~pursuant to~~  
103 ~~ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54~~ to develop rebate applications and  
104 administer the issuance of rebates.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.