

HB 509

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; requiring  
7           applications for rebates to include proofs of  
8           purchase; requiring the Department of Agriculture and  
9           Consumer Services to give priority to residents who  
10          have installed a solar energy system upon their  
11          homestead valued below a certain threshold amount;  
12          providing an effective date.

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

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

20           (1) PURPOSE.—The Solar Energy System Incentives Program is  
21          established within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
22          Services to provide financial incentives for the purchase and  
23          installation of solar energy systems. Any resident of the state  
24          who purchases and installs a new solar energy system of 2  
25          kilowatts or larger for a solar photovoltaic system, a solar  
26          energy system that provides at least 50 percent of a building's

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

32 (2) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM INCENTIVE.—

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

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

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

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

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

45 1. Ten ~~Twenty~~ thousand dollars for a residence.

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

50 (3) SOLAR THERMAL SYSTEM INCENTIVE.—

51 (a) Eligibility requirements.—A solar thermal system  
 52 qualifies for a rebate if:

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

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

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

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

65 (4) SOLAR THERMAL POOL HEATER INCENTIVE.—

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

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

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

76 (6) REBATE AVAILABILITY.—The department shall determine  
 77 and publish on a regular basis the amount of rebate funds  
 78 remaining in each fiscal year. The total dollar amount of all

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79 rebates issued is subject to the total amount of appropriations  
80 in any fiscal year for this program.

81 (a) Priority for certain residents.—Subject to legislative  
82 appropriation, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
83 Services shall reserve the first \$50 million of rebate funding  
84 for residents eligible for a rebate and who have installed a  
85 solar energy system upon their homestead valued at \$300,000 or  
86 less.

87 (b) Rebate rollover.—If funds are insufficient during the  
88 current fiscal year, any requests for rebates received during  
89 that fiscal year may be processed during the following fiscal  
90 year. Requests for rebates received in a fiscal year that are  
91 processed during the following fiscal year shall be given  
92 priority over requests for rebates received during the following  
93 fiscal year.

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

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