
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1352 Session of
2006

INTRODUCED BY ERICKSON, BOSCOLA, FERLO, GORDNER, PILEGGI,
C. WILLIAMS, WAUGH, RAFFERTY, ORIE, TARTAGLIONE, ARMSTRONG,
LEMOND, REGOLA, BROWNE AND GREENLEAF, OCTOBER 12, 2006

REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, OCTOBER 12, 2006

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Solar Energy System Incentives Program within
2 the Department of Environmental Protection; and providing for
3 powers and duties of the Pennsylvania Public Utility
4 Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection.

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15 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
16 hereby enacts as follows:

17 Section 1. Short title.

18 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Solar Energy

1 System Incentives Program Act.

2 Section 2. Definitions.

3 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
4 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
5 context clearly indicates otherwise:

6 "Account." The Solar Energy System Incentives Account
7 consisting of funds appropriated from the General Assembly or
8 received from Federal grants and loans.

9 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

10 "Department." The Department of Environmental Protection of
11 the Commonwealth.

12 "Solar energy system." Equipment that provides for the
13 collection and use of incident solar energy for water heating,
14 space heating or cooling or other applications that would
15 normally require a conventional source of energy such as
16 petroleum products, natural gas or electricity that performs
17 primarily with solar energy. In other systems in which solar
18 energy is used in a supplemental way, only those components that
19 collect and transfer solar energy shall be included in this
20 definition.

21 "Solar photovoltaic system." A device that converts incident
22 sunlight into electrical current.

23 "Solar thermal system." A device that traps heat from
24 incident sunlight in order to heat water.

25 "The Sustainable Energy Fund PV Grant Program."
26 Pennsylvania's sustainable energy fund established under the
27 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's restructuring orders
28 under 66 Pa.C.S. Ch. 28 (relating to restructuring of electric
29 utility industry).

30 Section 3. Account.

1 (a) Establishment of account.--The Solar Energy System
2 Incentives Account is hereby established in the General Fund to
3 be utilized by the department for the creation, development,
4 administration, management and implementation of the Solar
5 Energy System Incentives Program established under this act.

6 (b) Moneys deposited in account.--All of the following
7 moneys shall be deposited into the account:

8 (1) Federal or State funds, or both, appropriated by the
9 General Assembly for the purposes of this act.

10 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
11 contrary, any interest earned upon money deposited into the
12 account.

13 (c) Continuous appropriation.--

14 (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), notwithstanding
15 any other provision of law to the contrary, the money in the
16 account is continuously appropriated without regard to fiscal
17 years to the department for the implementation and
18 administration of the program.

19 (2) The money in the account may be expended by the
20 department for the implementation and administration of the
21 program only upon appropriation by the General Assembly.

22 Section 4. Solar Energy System Incentives Program.

23 (a) Establishment of program.--There is established within
24 the department the Solar Energy System Incentives Program.

25 (b) Purpose.--The program shall provide for the creation,
26 development, administration, management and implementation of a
27 program to provide financial incentives for the purchase and
28 installation of solar energy systems. Any resident of this
29 Commonwealth who purchases and installs a new solar energy
30 system of 1.0 kilowatts or larger for a solar photovoltaic

1 system, or a solar energy system that provides at least 30% of a
2 building's hot water consumption for a solar thermal system from
3 July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2015, is eligible for a rebate on
4 a portion of the purchase price of that solar energy system.

5 Section 5. Solar photovoltaic system incentive.

6 (a) Eligibility requirements.--A solar photovoltaic system
7 qualifies for a rebate if the system is installed by a State-
8 licensed master electrician, electrical contractor or solar
9 contractor and is recognized by the Sustainable Development Fund
10 Solar Grant Program.

11 (b) Standards.--The system shall comply with State
12 interconnection standards as approved by the commission.

13 (c) Requirements.--The system shall comply with all
14 applicable electrical, electrician and building codes and as
15 defined by State and local jurisdictional authority.

16 (d) Rebate amounts.--The rebate amount shall be set at \$3
17 per watt based on the total nominal wattage rating of the
18 system. The maximum allowable rebate per solar photovoltaic
19 system installation shall be as follows:

20 (1) Twenty thousand dollars for a residence.

21 (2) Two hundred fifty thousand dollars for a place of
22 business, a public owned or operated facility or a facility
23 owned or operated by a private, not-for-profit organization,
24 including condominiums, housing associations or apartment
25 buildings.

26 Section 6. Solar thermal system incentive.

27 (a) Eligibility requirements.--A solar thermal system
28 qualifies for a rebate if:

29 (1) the system is installed by a plumbing contractor or
30 solar contractor and is recognized by the Sustainable

Development Fund Solar Grant Program; and

(2) the system complies with all applicable electrical, electrician and building codes and as defined by State and local jurisdictional authority.

(b) Rebate amounts.--Authorized rebates for installation of solar thermal systems for the first two years after the effective date of this act and thereafter set by the department shall be as follows:

(1) One thousand dollars for a residence.

(2) Twenty percent of the cost up to a maximum of \$5,000 for a place of business, a publicly owned or operated facility or a facility owned or operated by a not-for-profit entity, including condominiums, homeowners associations and apartment buildings. British thermal units must be verified by approved metering equipment.

Section 7. Rebate availability.

The department shall determine and publish public information on an Internet website on the availability of funds and other details, including the amount of rebate money remaining in the account. The total dollar amount of all rebates issued by the department is subject to the total amount of appropriations in any fiscal year for this program. If funds are insufficient during the current fiscal year to meet qualifying application needs, any requests for rebates received during that fiscal year may be processed during the following fiscal year. Requests for rebates received in a fiscal year that are processed during the following fiscal year shall be given priority over requests for rebates received during the following fiscal year. The department shall set the rebate level as market conditions deem appropriate after the first two years after the effective date

1 of this act.

2 Section 8. Standards.

3 To be eligible for solar photovoltaic incentives, solar
4 photovoltaic system equipment must comply with the hardware
5 standards criteria defined under the Sustainable Energy Fund PV
6 Grant Program or established by the commission. These systems
7 must be verified and inspected as defined by the commission, as
8 applicable. To be eligible for solar thermal incentives, solar
9 thermal system equipment must comply with hardware standards
10 criteria defined by the commission. These systems must be
11 verified and inspected as defined by the commission, as
12 applicable.

13 Section 9. Effective date.

14 This act shall take effect in 60 days.