

By: Straus

H.B. No. 3243

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring the installation of solar power generation panels in the construction of public schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 11, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 11.171 to read as follows:

Sec. 11.171. SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS. (a) The trustees of an independent school district shall ensure that any new public school built in the district is designed for and constructed with solar electric generation panels on the rooftops of the school. The trustees may provide for the addition of solar electric generation panels to the rooftops of any existing public school in the district or for a new building on the property of a public school to be designed for and constructed with solar electric generation panels.

(b) The trustees of an independent school district shall contract with the public utility, retail electric provider, municipally owned utility, or electric cooperative providing electricity to the district so that:

(1) surplus electricity produced by a school building's solar electric generation panels is made available for sale to the electric transmission and distribution system; and

(2) the net value of that surplus electricity is credited to the district.

SECTION 2. Section 31.004, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) The commission shall provide information to school districts regarding how a school district may finance the installation of solar electric generation panels for school district buildings.

SECTION 3. Section 39.002, Utilities Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 39.002. APPLICABILITY. This chapter, other than Sections 39.155, 39.157(e), 39.203, 39.903, ~~[and]~~ 39.904, and 39.911, does not apply to a municipally owned utility or an electric cooperative. Sections 39.157(e), 39.203, and 39.904, however, apply only to a municipally owned utility or an electric cooperative that is offering customer choice. If there is a conflict between the specific provisions of this chapter and any other provisions of this title, except for Chapters 40 and 41, the provisions of this chapter control.

SECTION 4. Subchapter Z, Chapter 39, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 39.911 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.911. CREDIT FOR SURPLUS SOLAR GENERATION BY PUBLIC SCHOOLS. (a) An electric utility, retail electric provider, municipally owned utility, or electric cooperative shall provide for net metering and contract with an independent school district so that:

(1) surplus electricity produced by a school building's solar electric generation panels is made available for sale to the electric transmission grid and distribution system; and

1 (2) the net value of that surplus electricity is
2 credited to the district.

3 (b) The commission by rule shall require that credits for
4 electricity produced by a school building's solar electric
5 generation panels reflect the value of the electricity at the time
6 of day that it is made available for sale to the electric
7 transmission grid and distribution system.

8 SECTION 5. Section 11.171, Education Code, as added by this
9 Act, does not apply to the construction or design of a school
10 building the planning process for which began before the effective
11 date of this Act.

12 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.