

1-1 By: Van de Putte S.B. No. 598  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 30, 2009; February 23, 2009,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources;  
1-4 April 14, 2009, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 8,  
1-5 Nays 0; April 14, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to a pilot revolving loan program for retrofitting public  
1-9 school buildings with photovoltaic solar panels and associated  
1-10 energy efficiency improvements.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 2305, Government Code, is  
1-13 amended by adding Section 2305.0321 to read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 2305.0321. PILOT REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM FOR SOLAR  
1-15 ENERGY FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS. (a) The energy office shall  
1-16 establish a pilot program under the loanstar revolving loan program  
1-17 to provide loans to pay the cost of installing photovoltaic solar  
1-18 panels on public school buildings and the cost of associated energy  
1-19 efficiency improvements to the buildings. The energy office shall  
1-20 allocate to the pilot program at least \$4 million from the funds  
1-21 available to the loanstar revolving loan program.

1-22 (b) The energy office by rule shall establish the terms  
1-23 under which a loan may be made under the pilot program, including  
1-24 the interest rate for repayment of pilot program loans.

1-25 (c) Through the pilot program, the energy office shall offer  
1-26 to each school district the opportunity to apply for a loan to pay  
1-27 the cost of installing photovoltaic solar panels on at least one  
1-28 school building of the school district's choice and the cost of  
1-29 associated energy efficiency improvements to that building. The  
1-30 energy office by rule shall establish a procedure for determining  
1-31 which school districts qualify for a loan under the pilot program,  
1-32 including rules for selecting the school districts that will  
1-33 receive a loan if there is not sufficient money set aside for pilot  
1-34 program improvements at all school districts.

1-35 (d) Each school district that receives a loan shall pay for  
1-36 the principal of and interest on the loan for each school building  
1-37 improvement primarily from the amount budgeted for the energy costs  
1-38 of the school at which the solar panels are installed. The school  
1-39 district may make additional payments of the principal of or  
1-40 interest on a loan from money rebated to it as compensation for  
1-41 electric energy generated by the solar panels or money received as a  
1-42 gift or grant for the purpose of paying the loan.

1-43 (e) This section expires September 1, 2011, and the pilot  
1-44 program established under this section is dissolved on that date.

1-45 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
1-46 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
1-47 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
1-48 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
1-49 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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