

By: Rodriguez

H.B. No. 2077

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a pilot program under the loanstar revolving loan  
3 program to promote the use of energy efficiency measures and  
4 renewable energy technology by certain nonprofit organizations.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 2305, Government Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 2305.0322 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 2305.0322. PILOT REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM FOR ENERGY  
9 EFFICIENCY MEASURES AND RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY BY CERTAIN  
10 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS. (a) The legislature finds that promoting  
11 the implementation of energy efficiency measures and renewable  
12 energy technology is necessary to protect the public health and  
13 environment of this state and that the up-front cost of  
14 implementing those improvements often prevents some in the private  
15 sector, especially certain nonprofit organizations, from making  
16 the improvements. To make the implementation of energy efficiency  
17 measures and renewable energy technology by certain nonprofit  
18 organizations more affordable, it is necessary to provide  
19 alternative means of financing those improvements. Therefore, the  
20 legislature finds that a public purpose will be served by  
21 establishing a pilot program that provides loans to community-based  
22 organizations and houses of worship to finance the implementation  
23 of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technology in  
24 the buildings owned and operated by those organizations.

1           (b) In this section:

2                   (1) "Community-based organization" has the meaning  
3 assigned by Section 535.001.

4                   (2) "Energy efficiency" means a measure that is aimed  
5 at reducing the rate at which energy is used by equipment or  
6 processes and may be achieved by:

7                           (A) substituting more advanced equipment to  
8 produce the same or a higher level of end-use services with less  
9 energy;

10                           (B) adopting technology and processes that  
11 reduce heat or other energy losses;

12                           (C) installing materials, including  
13 weatherization materials, or equipment that reduces or facilitates  
14 a reduction in heat or other energy loss; or

15                           (D) reorganizing processes to make use of waste  
16 heat.

17                   (3) "House of worship" means a nonprofit corporation  
18 or association that:

19                           (A) is operated through a religious or  
20 denominational organization, including an organization that is  
21 operated for religious, educational, or charitable purposes and  
22 that is operated, supervised, or controlled, wholly or partly, by  
23 or in connection with a religious organization; or

24                           (B) clearly demonstrates through the  
25 organization's mission statement, policies, or practices that the  
26 organization is guided or motivated by religion.

27                   (4) "Pilot program" means the pilot program

1 established under this section to provide loans to houses of  
2 worship and community-based organizations to finance the  
3 implementation of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy  
4 technology in buildings owned or operated by those organizations.

5 (5) "Renewable energy technology" has the meaning  
6 assigned by Section 39.904(d), Utilities Code.

7 (c) Notwithstanding the requirement that the energy office  
8 provide loans under the loanstar revolving loan program to finance  
9 energy and water efficiency measures for public facilities, the  
10 energy office shall establish and administer a pilot program under  
11 the loanstar revolving loan program established under Section  
12 2305.032 to provide loans to houses of worship and community-based  
13 organizations to finance the implementation of energy efficiency  
14 measures and renewable energy technology in buildings owned or  
15 operated by those organizations.

16 (d) Not later than January 1 of each year, the energy office  
17 shall submit a report to the legislature that includes:

18 (1) a brief description of:

19 (A) the implementation and status of the pilot  
20 program;

21 (B) the energy efficiency measures or renewable  
22 energy technologies financed under the pilot program; and

23 (C) the energy saved and clean energy produced as  
24 a result of implementing energy efficiency measures or renewable  
25 energy technologies financed under the program;

26 (2) recommendations for addressing any challenges or  
27 obstacles encountered in financing the implementation of energy

1 efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies under the  
2 pilot program; and

3 (3) any additional information the office determines  
4 necessary.

5 (e) This section expires December 31, 2015.

6 SECTION 2. The state energy conservation office shall  
7 establish the pilot program required under Section 2305.0322,  
8 Government Code, as added by this Act, not later than March 1, 2012.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.