

1-1 By: Rodriguez (Senate Sponsor - Deuell) H.B. No. 2077  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 5, 2011;  
1-3 May 9, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural  
1-4 Resources; May 18, 2011, reported favorably by the following vote:  
1-5 Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 18, 2011, sent to printer.)

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

1-8 relating to a pilot program under the loanstar revolving loan  
1-9 program to promote the use of energy efficiency measures and  
1-10 renewable energy technology by certain nonprofit organizations.

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 2305.0322 to read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 2305.0322. PILOT REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM FOR ENERGY  
1-15 EFFICIENCY MEASURES AND RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY BY CERTAIN  
1-16 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS. (a) The legislature finds that  
1-17 promoting the implementation of energy efficiency measures and  
1-18 renewable energy technology is necessary to protect the public  
1-19 health and environment of this state and that the up-front cost of  
1-20 implementing those improvements often prevents some in the private  
1-21 sector, especially certain nonprofit organizations, from making  
1-22 the improvements. To make the implementation of energy efficiency  
1-23 measures and renewable energy technology by certain nonprofit  
1-24 organizations more affordable, it is necessary to provide  
1-25 alternative means of financing those improvements. Therefore, the  
1-26 legislature finds that a public purpose will be served by  
1-27 establishing a pilot program that provides loans to community-based  
1-28 organizations and houses of worship to finance the implementation  
1-29 of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technology in  
1-30 the buildings owned and operated by those organizations.

1-31 (b) In this section:

1-32 (1) "Community-based organization" has the meaning  
1-33 assigned by Section 535.001.

1-34 (2) "Energy efficiency" means a measure that is aimed  
1-35 at reducing the rate at which energy is used by equipment or  
1-36 processes and may be achieved by:

1-37 (A) substituting more advanced equipment to  
1-38 produce the same or a higher level of end-use services with less  
1-39 energy;

1-40 (B) adopting technology and processes that  
1-41 reduce heat or other energy losses;

1-42 (C) installing materials, including  
1-43 weatherization materials, or equipment that reduces or facilitates  
1-44 a reduction in heat or other energy loss; or

1-45 (D) reorganizing processes to make use of waste  
1-46 heat.

1-47 (3) "House of worship" means a nonprofit corporation  
1-48 or association that:

1-49 (A) is operated through a religious or  
1-50 denominational organization, including an organization that is  
1-51 operated for religious, educational, or charitable purposes and  
1-52 that is operated, supervised, or controlled, wholly or partly, by  
1-53 or in connection with a religious organization; or

1-54 (B) clearly demonstrates through the  
1-55 organization's mission statement, policies, or practices that the  
1-56 organization is guided or motivated by religion.

1-57 (4) "Pilot program" means the pilot program  
1-58 established under this section to provide loans to houses of  
1-59 worship and community-based organizations to finance the  
1-60 implementation of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy  
1-61 technology in buildings owned or operated by those organizations.

1-62 (5) "Renewable energy technology" has the meaning  
1-63 assigned by Section 39.904(d), Utilities Code.

1-64 (c) Notwithstanding the requirement that the energy office

2-1 provide loans under the loanstar revolving loan program to finance  
2-2 energy and water efficiency measures for public facilities, the  
2-3 energy office shall establish and administer a pilot program under  
2-4 the loanstar revolving loan program established under Section  
2-5 2305.032 to provide loans to houses of worship and community-based  
2-6 organizations to finance the implementation of energy efficiency  
2-7 measures and renewable energy technology in buildings owned or  
2-8 operated by those organizations.

2-9 (d) Not later than January 1 of each year, the energy office  
2-10 shall submit a report to the legislature that includes:

2-11 (1) a brief description of:

2-12 (A) the implementation and status of the pilot  
2-13 program;

2-14 (B) the energy efficiency measures or renewable  
2-15 energy technologies financed under the pilot program; and

2-16 (C) the energy saved and clean energy produced as  
2-17 a result of implementing energy efficiency measures or renewable  
2-18 energy technologies financed under the program;

2-19 (2) recommendations for addressing any challenges or  
2-20 obstacles encountered in financing the implementation of energy  
2-21 efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies under the  
2-22 pilot program; and

2-23 (3) any additional information the office determines  
2-24 necessary.

2-25 (e) This section expires December 31, 2015.

2-26 SECTION 2. The state energy conservation office shall  
2-27 establish the pilot program required under Section 2305.0322,  
2-28 Government Code, as added by this Act, not later than March 1, 2012.

2-29 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2-30 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2-31 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-32 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-33 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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