

By: Rodriguez

S.B. No. 619

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring solar panels to be offered by certain builders of new homes.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle C, Title 5, Business & Commerce Code, is amended by adding Chapter 106 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 106. REGULATION OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

Sec. 106.001. SOLAR PANEL OPTION REQUIRED IN CERTAIN

SUBDIVISIONS. (a) In this section, "solar energy device" means a system or series of mechanisms designed primarily to provide heating or cooling or to produce electrical or mechanical power by collecting and transferring solar-generated energy. The term includes a mechanical or chemical device that has the ability to store solar-generated energy for use in heating or cooling or in the production of power.

(b) This chapter applies only to a contract for construction of a new home in a subdivision that contains more than 50 lots on which the builder has built or is offering to build new homes.

(c) A builder who enters into a contract to which this chapter applies shall offer the home buyer an option to install a solar energy device on the home for heating or cooling or for the production of power.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a contract for new home construction entered into on or after the

1 effective date of this Act. A contract entered into before the  
2 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect  
3 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is  
4 continued in effect for that purpose.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.