

By: Rodriguez of Travis

H.B. No. 1362

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 2305.0322, Government Code, is amended
8 to read as follows:

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

1 the buildings owned and operated by those organizations.

2 (b) In this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (1) a brief description of:

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

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

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

27 (2) recommendations for addressing any challenges or

1 obstacles encountered in financing the implementation of energy
2 efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies under the
3 pilot program; and

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

6 (e) Not later than September 1, 2013, the energy office
7 shall establish an advisory committee composed of at least five
8 representatives from faith and community-based organizations to
9 assist the office in implementing the pilot program. The energy
10 office shall work with statewide faith and community-based
11 organizations to recruit advisory committee members. The advisory
12 committee shall elect a chair and the chair shall call their
13 meetings. They shall meet as often as needed to:

14 (1) make recommendations to the energy office
15 regarding the application process and documents;

16 (2) develop a faith and community-based outreach and
17 education plan for the pilot project; and

18 (3) write a report to the Legislature before the
19 beginning of each legislative session identifying challenges and
20 successes of the pilot program and recommendations for future
21 efforts to bring energy efficiency to the nonprofit sector.

22 (f) [~~e~~] This section expires December 31, 2017 [~~2015~~].

23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.