

By: Talarico

H.B. No. 4090

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a grant and loan program to promote the installation of on-site solar energy and energy storage for resilience.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 2305, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2305.040 to read as follows:

Sec. 2305.040. SOLAR ENERGY AND ENERGY STORAGE RESILIENCE GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM. (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.

(b) In this section, "energy storage device" means 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.

(c) In this section, "essential community services" means those providing the public with free water, food, shelter, medical services, emergency response operations, and other services that the local county deems essential.

(d) The energy office is the supervising state agency of the solar energy and energy storage resilience grant and loan program. The program is established to encourage the installation of solar energy and energy storage devices to enable locations that provide essential community services during emergencies to continue

1 operating autonomously when electricity from the grid is not
2 available.

3 (e) The energy office shall award grants or make or
4 guarantee loans for the the solar energy and energy storage
5 resilience grant and loan program.

6 (f) Grants shall be made available for government
7 facilities. The energy office shall distribute grants in a manner
8 that ensures an equitable geographic distribution.

9 (g) The energy office shall determine the terms under which
10 a loan may be made under this section and shall set the interest
11 rate for a loan at a low rate that the energy office determines is
12 sufficient to recover the cost of administering the loan program.

13 (h) Before awarding a grant or making a loan under this
14 section, the energy office shall enter into a written agreement
15 with the entity to which the grant is to be awarded or the loan is to
16 be made. The agreement may specify that if, as of a date specified
17 by the agreement, the entity has not used the grant or loan for the
18 purposes for which the grant or loan was intended, the entity shall
19 repay the amount of the grant or the amount of the loan and any
20 accrued interest, as applicable, under terms specified by the
21 agreement.

22 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.