

1-1 By: Zaffirini, Blanco S.B. No. 1697  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 27, 2025; March 11, 2025,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Business & Commerce;  
1-4 March 26, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 11,  
1-5 Nays 0; March 26, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to a customer guide to home solar energy devices.  
1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:  
1-23 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 17, Utilities Code, is  
1-24 amended by adding Section 17.011 to read as follows:  
1-25 Sec. 17.011. TRANSPARENCY AND BEST PRACTICES GUIDE FOR  
1-26 ROOFTOP SOLAR SYSTEMS FOR HOMES. (a) In this section, "solar  
1-27 energy device" has the meaning assigned by Section 185.001.  
1-28 (b) The commission shall develop and periodically update a  
1-29 guide to provide customers with:  
1-30 (1) basic information, best practices, and guidelines  
1-31 to consider when deciding whether to install a solar energy device  
1-32 for a home; and  
1-33 (2) a list of resources for obtaining more detailed  
1-34 information on solar energy devices.  
1-35 (c) The guide must include the following information:  
1-36 (1) suggested questions to ask the electric  
1-37 cooperative, electric utility, municipally owned utility, or  
1-38 retail electric provider that serves the customer about services  
1-39 relating to home solar energy devices, including whether the  
1-40 cooperative, utility, or provider:  
1-41 (A) offers net metering or a buyback program for  
1-42 excess power put onto the grid by a solar energy device;  
1-43 (B) provides rebates or incentives for the  
1-44 installation of a solar energy device; and  
1-45 (C) can clearly identify the services related to  
1-46 home solar energy devices it does or does not provide;  
1-47 (2) design elements of solar energy devices to  
1-48 consider for maximizing efficiency, including:  
1-49 (A) the condition, direction, orientation, and  
1-50 tilt of the roof on which the device is installed;  
1-51 (B) shade analysis;  
1-52 (C) square footage of the roof; and  
1-53 (D) maintenance requirements;  
1-54 (3) financial considerations for customers  
1-55 considering installing a solar energy device, including:  
1-56 (A) financing options, including the costs and  
1-57 benefits of purchasing or leasing a solar energy device;  
1-58 (B) estimations of the appropriate size of a  
1-59 solar energy device system in relation to home size and power needs;  
1-60 (C) federal and state tax credits;  
1-61 (D) continuing costs, including fees, interest

2-1 rates, and costs of regular maintenance and repairs; and

2-2 (E) the expected life of different types of solar  
2-3 energy devices; and

2-4 (4) a contact telephone number and e-mail address for  
2-5 an employee or division of the commission who can provide customers  
2-6 with information about solar energy devices in this state.

2-7 (d) The commission shall publish the guide on the  
2-8 commission's Internet website.

2-9 (e) For at least 12 months after the commission publishes  
2-10 each version of the guide, each electric utility that issues a bill  
2-11 directly to a customer for any electric product or service and each  
2-12 electric cooperative, municipally owned utility, and retail  
2-13 electric provider shall:

2-14 (1) include a link to the guide on the utility's,  
2-15 cooperative's, or provider's Internet website; and

2-16 (2) provide information about accessing the guide with  
2-17 each bill.

2-18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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