

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2685

Introduced by Assembly Member Oropeza

February 20, 2004

An act to add Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 25560) to Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, relating to energy resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2685, as introduced, Oropeza. Energy resources: Energy Independence Board.

Existing law provides for the restructuring of California's electric power industry so that the price for the generation of electricity is determined by a competitive market.

This bill would create the Energy Independence Board within the Office of Planning and Research to facilitate the development of electricity generation facilities, as defined. The bill would require the focus of the board to be on streamlining regulatory requirements and processes. The bill would not authorize the board to reduce existing environmental or other regulatory requirements.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 25560)
2 is added to Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, to read:
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CHAPTER 6.6. Energy Independence Board

25560. (a) There is within the Office of Planning and Research the Energy Independence Board.

(b) The board shall facilitate the development of electricity generation facilities.

25560.1. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) “Board” means the Energy Independence Board.

(b) “Electricity generation facilities” includes facilities for all sources of electricity, including renewable energy and distributed generation facilities, that are under 50 megawatts.

25560.2. (a) The Director of the State Clearinghouse shall be the chair of the board.

(b) The board shall consist of a representative from each of the following:

(1) Air Resources Board.

(2) California Environmental Protection Agency.

(3) Department of Fish and Game.

(4) Integrated Waste Management Board.

(5) Resources Agency.

(6) State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission.

(7) State Water Quality Control Board.

25560.3. The focus of the board shall be on streamlining regulatory requirements and processes. Where possible, agencies, boards and commissions shall work together to develop project specific timelines, processes, and mitigation measures. No mitigation measure recommended by one agency, board, or commission shall negatively impact another regulatory agency, board, or commission.

25560.4. State agencies, departments, commissions, and other boards shall staff the board with staff of sufficient background, knowledge, and authority for the board to accomplish its mission.

25560.5. Appropriate federal regulatory agencies, departments, and commissions shall be invited to participate with the board.

25560.6. Local governments, nonprofit organizations, and businesses may apply to the board for assistance in improving the

1 coordination of state entities related to developing new and
2 expanding existing electricity generation facilities in California.
3 25560.7. Nothing in this chapter reduces or authorizes the
4 board to reduce, existing environmental or other regulatory
5 requirements.

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