

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 14, 2004

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

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. An act to add Section 65040.15 to the Government Code, relating to energy resources.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2685, as amended, Oropeza. Energy resources:—~~Energy Independence Board~~ *State Clearinghouse*.

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. *Under existing law, the Office of Planning and Research is required to coordinate, in conjunction with appropriate state, regional, and local agencies, the development of objectives, criteria, and procedures for the orderly evaluation and report of the impact of public and private actions on the environmental quality of the state and as a guide to the preparation of environmental impact reports.*

This bill would ~~create the Energy Independence Board~~ *require, upon request, the State Clearinghouse* within the Office of Planning and Research to facilitate the development of *renewable* electricity generation facilities, as defined. The bill would ~~require the focus of the board to be on~~ *authorize the clearinghouse to convene appropriate state, regional, or local agencies for the purpose of streamlining*

regulatory requirements and processes. The bill would not authorize the ~~board~~ clearinghouse 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 *SECTION 1. Section 65040.15 is added to the Government*
3 *Code, to read:*

4 65040.15. (a) The State Clearinghouse, consistent with the
5 authority granted pursuant to subdivision (g) of Section 65040
6 shall, upon request, facilitate the development of renewable
7 electricity generation facilities by coordinating the orderly
8 evaluation of the impact of public and private actions on the
9 environmental quality of the state.

10 (b) For purposes of this section, “renewable electricity
11 generation facilities” includes all renewable energy facilities
12 except geothermal energy facilities.

13 (c) To accomplish the purpose of this section, the State
14 Clearinghouse may convene appropriate state, regional, or local
15 agencies for the purpose of streamlining regulatory requirements
16 and processes. Where possible, agencies, boards, and
17 commissions shall work together to develop project specific
18 timelines, processes, and mitigation measures. A mitigation
19 measure recommended by one regulatory agency, board, or
20 commission shall not negate a recommendation of another
21 regulatory agency, board, or commission.

22 (d) State agencies, departments, commissions, or boards shall
23 staff meetings with staff of sufficient background, knowledge, and
24 authority for the meeting to accomplish its goals.

25 (e) Appropriate federal regulatory agencies, departments, and
26 commissions shall be invited to participate in meetings.

27 (f) Nothing in this section reduces, or authorizes the State
28 Clearinghouse to reduce, existing environmental or other
29 regulatory requirements. ~~is added to Division 15 of the Public~~
30 ~~Resources Code, to read:~~

31

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.~~

