

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2705

**Introduced by Committee on Agriculture (Cardoza (Chair),
Maldonado (Vice Chair), Briggs, Florez, House, Reyes,
Thomson, and Wiggins)**

February 25, 2000

An act to add Chapter 7.5 (commencing with Section 25650) to Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, relating to energy assistance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2705, as introduced, Committee on Agriculture. Agricultural industry energy program.

Under existing law, there is a loan program to assist low-income fishing fleet operators reduce their energy costs and conserve fuel by providing low-interest loans to those operators.

This bill would require the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to establish an agricultural industry energy program to provide loans for the purchase of equipment and services for agriculture energy efficiency and development demonstration projects. The bill would provide that the loans have a repayment period of not more than 7 years, and bear interest at a rate not less than 2% below the rate earned by moneys in the Pooled Money Investment Account. Funds from loan repayments and interest would be required to be deposited in the Energy Technologies Research, Development, and Demonstration

Account, and upon appropriation, would be available for loans and technical assistance.

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

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 7.5 (commencing with Section 25650) is added to Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

CHAPTER 7.5. AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY ENERGY
PROGRAM

25650. (a) The commission shall establish an agricultural industry energy program for loans for the purchase of equipment and services for agriculture energy efficiency and development demonstration projects, including, but not limited to, production of methane or ethanol, use of wind, photovoltaics, and other sources of energy for irrigation pumping, application of load management conservation techniques, improvements in water pumping and pressurization techniques, and conservation tillage techniques.

(b) The loans shall contain terms providing for a repayment period of not more than seven years and for interest at a rate that is not less than 2 percent below the rate earned by moneys in the Pooled Money Investment Account.

(c) The funds from loan repayments and interest shall be deposited in the Energy Technologies Research, Development, and Demonstration Account and shall be available for loans and technical assistance pursuant to this section, upon appropriation in the Budget Act. Up to 20 percent of the annual appropriation shall be available for technical assistance.

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