

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 4, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

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 amended, 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. *Prior acts have also appropriated federal oil overcharge funds in the Petroleum Violation Escrow Account to the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission for a farm energy assistance program.*

~~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 funds from loan repayments and interest would on loans made by the commission pursuant to an agriculture energy assistance program to be required to be deposited in the Energy Technologies Research, Development, and Demonstration Account, and upon appropriation, would to be available for loans and technical assistance. 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.~~

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 7.5 (commencing with Section
2 25650) is added to Division 15 of the Public Resources
3 Code, to read:

4

5 CHAPTER 7.5. AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY ENERGY
6 PROGRAM

7

8 ~~25650. (a) The commission shall establish an~~
9 ~~agricultural industry energy program for loans for the~~

10 25650. (a) All funds from loan repayments and
11 interest that become due and payable for loans made by
12 the commission pursuant to an agriculture energy
13 assistance program shall be deposited in the Energy
14 Technologies Research, Development, and
15 Demonstration Account, and shall be available for loans
16 and technical assistance pursuant to this section, upon
17 appropriation in the Budget Act. Up to 20 percent of the
18 annual appropriation shall be available for technical
19 assistance.

20 (b) Loans made pursuant to this section shall be for the
21 purchase of equipment and services for agriculture
22 energy efficiency and development demonstration
23 projects, including, but not limited to, production of



1 methane or ethanol, use of wind, photovoltaics, and other
2 sources of energy for irrigation pumping, application of
3 load management conservation techniques,
4 improvements in water pumping and pressurization
5 techniques, and conservation tillage techniques.

6 ~~(b)~~

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

12 ~~(e) The funds from loan repayments and interest shall~~
13 ~~be deposited in the Energy Technologies Research,~~
14 ~~Development, and Demonstration Account and shall be~~
15 ~~available for loans and technical assistance pursuant to~~
16 ~~this section, upon appropriation in the Budget Act. Up to~~
17 ~~20 percent of the annual appropriation shall be available~~
18 ~~for technical assistance.~~

