

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 24, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 18, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 8, 2000

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 4, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2705

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

February 25, 2000

An act to add Chapter 7.5 (commencing with Section 25650) to Division 15 of, and to repeal Section 25615 of, the Public Resources Code, relating to energy assistance and technology.

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 funds from loan repayments and interest on loans made by the commission pursuant to an agriculture energy assistance program to be deposited in the Energy Technologies Research, Development, and Demonstration Account, and upon appropriation, to be available for loans and technical assistance. *The bill would authorize an amount up to 20% of the annual appropriation to be made available for 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.

Existing law establishes a state program managed by the Department of Food and Agriculture and the commission to assist in the development of solar technology in agriculture.

This bill would repeal that provision.

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

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8 25650. (a) All funds from loan repayments and
9 interest that become due and payable for loans made by
10 the commission pursuant to an agriculture energy
11 assistance program shall be deposited in the Energy
12 Technologies Research, Development, and
13 Demonstration Account, and shall be available for loans
14 and technical assistance pursuant to this section, upon
15 appropriation in the Budget Act. Up to 20 percent of the
16 annual appropriation ~~shall~~ *may* be available for technical
17 assistance.

18 (b) Loans made pursuant to this section shall be for the
19 purchase of equipment and services for agriculture



1 energy efficiency and development demonstration
2 projects, including, but not limited to, production of
3 methane or ethanol, use of wind, photovoltaics, and other
4 sources of energy for irrigation pumping, application of
5 load management conservation techniques,
6 improvements in water pumping and pressurization
7 techniques, and conservation tillage techniques.

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

13 SEC. 2. Section 25615 of the Public Resources Code is
14 repealed.

