

Assembly Bill No. 2705

CHAPTER 1046

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.

[Approved by Governor September 30, 2000. Filed
with Secretary of State September 30, 2000.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2705, 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.

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) All funds from loan repayments and interest that become due and payable for loans made by the commission pursuant to an agriculture energy assistance program 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 may be available for technical assistance.

(b) Loans made pursuant to this section shall be 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.

(c) The loans shall contain terms that provide 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.

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 Section 25615 of the Public Resources Code is repealed.

