

An act to amend Section 1615 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to energy.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 1615 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

1615. (a) (1) The commission shall require each utility to fund the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program by allocating their energy efficiency budgets for program years 2021, 2022, and 2023, in both of the following amounts:

(A) An amount equal to the applicable percentage of the difference between the budget contained in each utility's 2020 annual budget advice letter approved as of July 1, 2020, and the annual portfolio funding limitation for program year 2020 as set forth in the 2018–2025 business plan of each utility as approved and modified in ordering paragraph 45 of the commission's Decision 18-05-041 (May 31, 2019) Decision Addressing Energy Efficiency Business Plans, as modified by Decision 20-02-029 (February 6, 2020) Order Modifying Decision (D.) 18-05-041 and Denying Rehearing of Decision, as Modified. The applicable percentage is 80 percent for program year 2021, 70 percent for program year 2022, and 60 percent for program year 2023.

(B) Any carryover amount from unspent and uncommitted energy efficiency funds for program year 2020, 2021, or 2022 to the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program for the following year's budget.

(2) Funding allocations required by this subdivision shall only apply to program years 2021, 2022, and 2023.

(3) Any funds allocated towards the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program pursuant to this section that remain unspent by the end of each program year may be carried over and contribute to the next year's budget for the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program until the end of the 2023 energy efficiency program year.

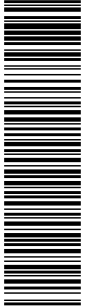
(b) (1) This section does not authorize the levy of a charge or any increase in the amount collected pursuant to an existing charge beyond the amounts authorized by the commission in Decision 18-05-041, or as modified by Decision 20-02-029, nor does it add to, or detract from, any existing authority of the commission to levy or increase charges.

(2) This subdivision does not change the commission's authority to determine revenue allocation and rate design, including its ability to prioritize customers participating in the California Alternative Rates for Energy or Family Electric Rate Assistance programs when considering appropriate revenue allocation for energy efficiency programs.

(c) The Energy Commission shall ensure that moneys from each utility for the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program are used for projects located in the service territory of that utility from which the moneys are received.

(d) The Energy Commission may use no more than 5 percent, not to exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000) per year, of the SRVEVR Program and the SNPFA Program funds for administrating the programs, including providing technical support to program participants. The commission shall ensure that funds allocated to the Energy Commission pursuant to this section are transferred to an account specified by the Energy Commission within 60 days after the completion of the prior energy efficiency program year.

(e) (1) The School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program Fund was administratively established for the Energy Commission to receive funds allocated pursuant to this chapter.



(2) Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, the moneys in the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program Fund are hereby continuously appropriated to the Energy Commission without regard to fiscal years for the purposes of the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program established pursuant to this chapter, including, but not limited to, paying the costs of program administration.

~~(f) All funds allocated in subdivision (a) shall be spent or returned to each utility by December 1, 2026.~~

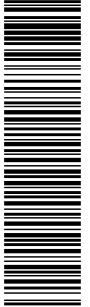
~~(g) The Energy Commission may set application and encumbrance deadlines to ensure that the reversion of funds as required by subdivision (f) occurs by December 1, 2026.~~

(f) Any funds described in this section that are unencumbered as of July 1, 2025, shall be reverted and returned to each utility and be used to reduce ratepayer charges that support the Emergency Load Reduction Program established in Decision 21-03-056 (March 25, 2021), Decision Directing Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, and San Diego Gas & Electric Company to Take Actions to Prepare for Potential Extreme Weather in the Summers of 2021 and 2022, or any other existing utility emergency grid reliability, load flexibility, or demand reduction program.

(g) All funds allocated and encumbered pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be liquidated on or before December 1, 2026. Any of those funds that are not liquidated on or before December 1, 2026, shall be reverted and returned to each utility and used to reduce ratepayer charges that support the Emergency Load Reduction Program established in Decision 21-03-056 (March 25, 2021), Decision Directing Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, and San Diego Gas & Electric Company to Take Actions to Prepare for Potential Extreme Weather in the Summers of 2021 and 2022, or any other existing utility emergency grid reliability, load flexibility, or demand reduction program.

(h) The Energy Commission shall take steps, consistent with Section 25230 of the Public Resources Code, to ensure that a diverse group of contractors are aware of funding opportunities available through the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program.

SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.



LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

Bill No.
as introduced, _____.
General Subject: School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program: Emergency Load Reduction Program.

Existing law requires the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to require those electrical corporations with 250,000 or more customer accounts in the state, and those gas corporations with 400,000 or more customer accounts in the state, to establish the joint School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program within each of their energy efficiency portfolios and to file a joint advice letter by February 1, 2021, to fund the program as part of each of their energy efficiency portfolios. Existing law requires that the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program be a joint program among all the participating utilities, be consistent across the utility territories, and be designed, administered, and implemented by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission) as the program administrator. Existing law requires all allocated funds to be spent or returned to the electrical corporation or gas corporation by December 1, 2026. Existing law authorizes the Energy Commission to set application and encumbrance deadlines to ensure that the reversion of funds occurs by December 1, 2026.

This bill would instead require that any funds allocated to the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program that are unencumbered as of July 1, 2025, be reverted and returned to the electrical corporation or gas corporation and used to reduce ratepayer charges that support the Emergency Load Reduction Program, or any other existing utility emergency grid reliability, load flexibility, or demand reduction program, as specified. The bill would require that all funds allocated and encumbered for the program be liquidated on or before December 1, 2026, and require that those funds that are not liquidated on or before December 1, 2026, be reverted and returned to each utility and used to reduce ratepayer charges that support the Emergency Load Reduction Program, or any other existing utility emergency grid reliability, load flexibility, or demand reduction program, as specified.

Under existing law, a violation of the Public Utilities Act or an order, decision, rule, direction, demand, or requirement of the PUC is a crime.

Because certain of the above-described provisions would be part of the act and a violation of a PUC action implementing this bill's requirements would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

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

