

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Eng Bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Atkinson, Boquist, Hass, Prozanski, Dingfelder

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Stipulates that authorization of Director of Department of Energy (Director) to delay or suspend energy efficiency and sustainable technology loans program (EEAST) does not apply to pilot program, unless Director determines available financial resources in Loan Offset Grant Fund is insufficient to allow operation of pilot program. Authorizes Director to establish base efficiency package fee for EEAST. Requires fee not exceed 10 percent of estimated economic benefit for base efficiency package. Requires, at least once every six months, Director estimate anticipated demand for loans and submit written declaration to State Treasurer. Stipulates that current limit of \$40,000 for EEAST loan is for residential dwellings served by single meter of utility and does not apply to other buildings such as multifamily housing and mixed-use structures. Requires all investor-owned utilities to establish on-bill financing systems. Establishes that city, county, and metropolitan service district may be project manager. At request of Director, requires investor-owned utility and consumer utility to make available repayment performance information, default rates, energy savings data, and any other information that Director adopts by rule. Requires EEAST program begin no later than June 30, 2011.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Purpose of EEAST program
- Clarification on when pilot program may be suspended

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Specifies that Director may suspend or delay pilot program if available financial resources in Loan Offset Grant Fund are insufficient. Requires investor-owned utilities with customers enrolled in EEAST to provide Department of Energy (ODOE) with specified information in aggregated form.

BACKGROUND: The 2009 Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2626, which directed ODOE to establish and administer the EEAST loan program to provide low cost loans to individuals for projects to increase energy efficiency in homes and small businesses. The measure authorizes ODOE and the Public Utility Commission to begin implementation of the program through pilot projects and to begin the full program after the pilot programs have been deemed successful without returning to the Legislature for approval.