

House Bill 966

By: Representatives Thomas of the 65th, Drenner of the 85th, Evans of the 83rd, Jones of the 53rd, and Buckner of the 137th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 electrical service, so as to require that retail consumers view a solar awareness presentation
3 prior to purchasing certain solar technology; to provide for a short title; to provide for
4 definitions; to require certain documentation; to provide for the Public Service Commission
5 to develop such solar awareness presentation and to promulgate certain rules and regulations;
6 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to electrical service,
10 is amended by adding a new part to Article 1, relating to generation and distribution of
11 electricity generally, to read as follows:

12 "PART 5

13 46-3-70.

14 This part shall be known and may be cited as the 'Solar Consumer Awareness Act.'

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15 46-3-71.

16 As used in this part, the term:

17 (1) 'Electric service provider' means any electric supplier that is engaged in the business
18 of distributing electricity to retail electric customers in this state.

19 (2) 'Retail consumer' means a person who seeks to make a solar technology purchase for
20 such person's use and not for the purpose of resale.

21 (3) 'Retail electric customer' means a person who purchases electric service from an
22 electric service provider for such person's use and not for the purpose of resale.

23 (4) 'Solar technology' means a system that:

24 (A) Generates electric energy that is fueled solely by ambient sunlight;

25 (B) Is to be installed upon property owned or occupied by a retail customer; and

26 (C) Is to be connected to an electric service provider's distribution system on either side
27 of the electric service provider's meter.

28 (5) 'Solar technology agent' means any person whose business includes the selling,
29 leasing, financing, or installation of solar technology.

30 (6) 'Solar technology procurement' means the purchase transaction, lease, or other
31 arrangement under which a retail consumer pays for or otherwise finances the
32 installation, operation, or both, of solar technology.

33 46-3-72.

34 (a) Prior to any solar technology procurement, a solar technology agent shall require the
35 retail consumer to view a solar awareness presentation and to certify that such solar
36 awareness presentation has been viewed in its entirety. The solar technology agent shall
37 maintain such certification for as long as such solar technology agent maintains any records
38 related to such solar technology procurement.

39 (b) The commission shall develop a curriculum for or list of required elements of the solar
40 awareness presentation required under subsection (a) of this Code section and shall

41 determine the providers approved to conduct or produce such solar awareness presentation.
42 At a minimum such solar awareness presentation shall include the ongoing costs and
43 maintenance associated with solar technology and the current law in this state related to
44 connecting solar technology to an electric service provider's distribution system and
45 metering. A solar technology agent or third party may submit to the commission a
46 proposed solar awareness presentation and upon receipt of which the commission shall
47 have 30 days to approve, deny, or indicate what modifications are necessary to the
48 submitted solar awareness presentation.

49 (c) The solar awareness presentation required under subsection (a) of this Code section
50 may be live or prerecorded and may be made available online or via some other format as
51 may be approved by the commission.

52 (d) Any violation of this Code section or any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder
53 shall be considered a violation of Part 2 of Article 15 of Chapter 1 of Title 10, the 'Fair
54 Business Practices Act of 1975,' and all public and private remedies available under such
55 part shall be available regarding violations of this Code section.

56 46-3-73.

57 The commission shall promulgate and enforce such rules and regulations as it may deem
58 necessary to carry out or make effective the provisions of this part."

59 **SECTION 2.**

60 Said chapter is further amended by revising Article 2, relating to nonprofit rural
61 electrification membership corporations, as follows:

62 "ARTICLE 2

63 ~~46-3-70~~ 46-3-90.

64 Reserved."

65 **SECTION 3.**

66 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.