

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the energy security and disaster
 3 resilience pilot program; creating s. 377.817, F.S.;
 4 creating the pilot program within the Department of
 5 Agriculture and Consumer Services; providing
 6 definitions; providing for the issuance of grants to
 7 offset costs relating to onsite solar energy storage
 8 systems for certain facilities; providing requirements
 9 for the application process; directing the department
 10 to conduct or contract to conduct a specified study,
 11 publish the study on its website, and provide copies
 12 of the study to the Governor and Legislature;
 13 authorizing the department to adopt rules; providing
 14 for expiration of the pilot program; providing an
 15 appropriation; providing an effective date.

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 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 19 Section 1. Section 377.817, Florida Statutes, is created
 20 to read:

21 377.817 Energy security and disaster resilience pilot
 22 program.—

23 (1) PROGRAM CREATION AND PURPOSE.—There is created within
 24 the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services an energy
 25 security and disaster resilience pilot program. The purpose of

26 | the pilot program is to:

27 | (a) Encourage and demonstrate the effectiveness of
 28 | distributed energy generation and energy storage technologies to
 29 | provide for the energy needs of critical disaster resilience
 30 | facilities during a natural disaster or declared state of
 31 | emergency.

32 | (b) Study and assess the effectiveness of grants for
 33 | distributed energy generation and energy storage technologies
 34 | throughout the state to improve the security of the state's
 35 | energy resources and enhance preparedness and resilience for a
 36 | natural disaster or declared state of emergency.

37 | (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

38 | (a) "Critical disaster resilience facility" means:

39 | 1. Emergency operations centers or other buildings owned
 40 | by a state, county, or municipal government agency and
 41 | designated by appropriate authorities as a place of community
 42 | refuge to be made available to provide temporary shelter and
 43 | housing to citizens during a natural disaster or declared state
 44 | of emergency.

45 | 2. Hospitals, assisted living facilities, and other public
 46 | health facilities needed to provide health services following a
 47 | natural disaster or declared state of emergency.

48 | 3. Airports, ports, and other transportation facilities
 49 | needed for evacuation and critical transportation needs in
 50 | preparation for and in response to a natural disaster or

51 declared state of emergency.

52 4. Facilities needed for personnel and services related to
53 emergency management, law enforcement, public safety, fire and
54 rescue, and first responders in response to a natural disaster
55 or declared state of emergency.

56 5. Wastewater facilities, stormwater management
57 facilities, and drinking water systems needed for public health
58 and safety in response to a natural disaster or declared state
59 of emergency.

60 6. Buildings housing state, county, or municipal
61 government agencies providing services related to disaster
62 preparedness or response.

63 (b) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture and
64 Consumer Services.

65 (c) "Eligible costs" means 30 percent of all direct
66 capital and labor costs associated with the purchase and
67 installation of an onsite solar energy storage system.

68 (d) "Onsite solar energy storage system" means a solar
69 photovoltaic generation device or system that is paired with an
70 electricity storage device or system that:

71 1. Is located on a critical disaster resilience facility's
72 premises and used primarily to offset all or part of the
73 facility's onsite electrical load or to provide backup energy in
74 the event of a utility electrical outage.

75 2. Is capable of isolating from the electric grid and

76 operating independently during a utility electrical outage.

77 3. Has sufficient battery storage capacity to supply at
78 least 24 hours of backup power to the critical disaster
79 resilience facility's onsite electrical load or at least 5 hours
80 of the facility's average daily usage of electricity.

81 (3) GRANTS.—The department shall establish a program to
82 issue grants to offset costs for the purchase or lease and
83 installation of onsite solar energy storage systems to serve
84 critical disaster resilience facilities.

85 (4) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

86 (a) An applicant seeking a grant, including an owner or
87 installer of the onsite solar energy storage system applying on
88 behalf of a critical disaster resilience facility, must submit
89 an application to the department by a specified date as
90 determined by the department. The application must require a
91 complete description of all eligible costs, proof of purchase or
92 lease of the onsite solar energy storage system for which the
93 applicant is seeking a grant, and any other information deemed
94 necessary by the department.

95 (b) The department shall determine the grant eligibility
96 of each applicant pursuant to this section and department rule.
97 The total amount of grants issued to eligible applicants may not
98 exceed the amount appropriated for the pilot program. Grants
99 must be issued to eligible applicants on a competitive basis
100 based on selection criteria developed by the department.

101 (5) ENERGY STORAGE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES STUDY.—

102 (a) The department shall conduct or contract with a third
103 party to conduct a study on the effectiveness of using solar
104 energy storage technologies and other renewable energy
105 generation and storage technologies.

106 (b) The study must include an assessment of the
107 effectiveness of solar energy storage technologies pursuant to
108 the pilot program based on factors that may include public
109 health and safety, disaster preparedness and resilience, capital
110 investment, net customer savings, net utility savings or
111 deferred investments, net job creation, impact on utility
112 service rates and service quality, and any other factors related
113 to the use of such technologies.

114 (c) The study must include all of the following:

115 1. Identification of existing policies relating to the use
116 of solar energy storage technologies and other renewable energy
117 generation and storage technologies.

118 2. Recommendations for expanding the pilot program as a
119 statewide energy security and disaster resilience policy.

120 3. Recommendations for statewide utility and state and
121 local planning and procurement policies that will provide net
122 benefits from the use of solar energy storage technologies and
123 other renewable energy generation and storage technologies.

124 (d) By December 31, 2022, the department shall publish the
125 results of the study on its website and provide copies of the

126 study to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
127 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

128 (6) RULES.—The department may adopt rules to administer
129 this section.

130 (7) PILOT PROGRAM EXPIRATION.—This section expires on
131 January 1, 2024.

132 Section 2. For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the sum of \$10
133 million in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General
134 Revenue Fund to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
135 Services for the purpose of funding the energy security and
136 disaster resilience pilot program created by this act. The
137 department may use up to \$100,000 to administer the pilot
138 program and shall use up to \$150,000 to conduct or contract with
139 a third party to conduct the energy storage and renewable energy
140 resources study.

141 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.