

TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION, 2007

BILLS OF INTEREST TO USGBC-SCRC ([SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL](#))
6/14/2007

Yellow highlighted bills are now law.

Gray highlighted bills are waiting for the governor's signature.

SB 12 *Relating to programs for the enhancement of air quality, including energy efficiency standards in state purchasing and energy consumption; providing penalties.*

Includes low income vehicle repair assistance, sets energy efficiency goals for school districts, requires state agencies to purchase energy efficient appliances and equipment, creates solar rebate demonstration project, extends and expands the Texas Emissions Reduction Program

Signed into law 6/8/2007.

SB 445 *Relating to design, construction, and renovation standards for state buildings and facilities.*

Stalled version of the bill requires all state buildings to meet a consensus based "high performance building standard."

Passed the Senate, was stalled in House Government Reform Committee in May.

SB 541 *Relating to continuing education in sustainable and energy-efficient design standards for a person registered by the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners.*

This will go into effect September 1, 2007.

Passed Senate and House. Sent to the governor 5/22/07. This is listed on www.governor.state.tx.us as a bill that the governor has signed (though not on www.capitol.state.tx.us for some reason).

SB 899 *Relating to design and construction standards for newly constructed or renovated state buildings, public school facilities, and higher education facilities.*

This was a competing bill with SB 445.

Left pending in the Senate Government Organization Committee in March.

HB 4 *Relating to water conservation.*

Creates state Water Conservation Advisory Council, requires retail water suppliers to implement water conservation plans, requires water conservation strategies such as rainwater harvesting or condensate collection for state buildings with roofs larger than 10,000 sf, exempts rainwater harvesting equipment from tax.

Passed Senate and House. Sent to the governor 5/30/07.

HB 230 *Relating to an optional insurance premium discount for certain resource-efficient buildings.*

Left pending in the House Insurance Committee in March.

HB 999 *Relating to the adoption of energy efficiency and conservation standards for the design, construction, and renovation of public school instructional facilities.*

This act specifically referred to LEED as a standard for public schools.

Left pending in the House Energy Resources Committee in March.

HB 1824 *Relating to the guaranteed level of state and local funds under the existing debt allotment for school districts that comply with green building guidelines.*

This act specifically referred to LEED as a standard for public schools.

Left pending in the House Public Education Committee in February.

HB 3070 *Relating to a study of methods for increasing the availability of certain information on energy efficiency of certain residential property.*

Requires a study designed to increase public awareness of the energy performance of one and two family homes. Topics studied will include the feasibility of an energy rating system, and mortgage incentives for high performing properties.

Passed Senate and House. Sent to the governor 5/26/07.

HB 3243 *Relating to requiring the installation of solar power generation panels in the construction of public schools.*

Left pending in the House Regulated Industries Committee in March.

HB 3693 *Relating to energy demand, energy load, energy efficiency incentives, energy programs, and energy performance measures.*

Requires net metering for solar and other renewable energy sources, a sales tax holiday on energy efficiency appliances next Memorial Day weekend, a requirement that state agencies, political subdivisions, and school districts look at their energy use and come up with a plan to decrease it by 30 percent over the next six years; and a requirement that school districts use energy efficient lighting and that state agencies purchase energy star appliances.

Passed Senate and House. Sent to the governor 5/30/07.