The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alden A. Clement Jr.

DIGEST

Morrell (SB 63)

Proposed law creates the crime of solar tax credit fraud.

<u>Proposed law</u> makes it unlawful for any person who has received money from a contract for the sale, installation, maintenance, or repair of a solar electric system or solar thermal system, as defined in <u>present law</u>, to claim a tax credit provided by <u>present law</u> against taxes owed to the state if the person:

- (1) Has failed to perform or complete the installation of the system or failed to maintain or repair the system under the terms of the contract.
- (2) Fails to maintain or repair the system under the terms of the contract subsequent to claiming the tax credit.

Proposed law provides the following penalties for violating proposed law:

- (1) When the aggregate amount of the tax credit claimed is \$1,000 or less, the person is to be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not less than 90 days nor more than six months, or both.
- (2) When the aggregate amount of the tax credit claimed is greater than \$1,000, the person is to be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not less than 90 days nor more than six months, or both, for each \$1,000 of the tax credit claimed, provided that the aggregate imprisonment cannot exceed five years.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that the district attorney is to notify the Dept. of Revenue in writing of any prosecution under <u>proposed law</u>.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that nothing contained in <u>proposed law</u> is to be construed to prevent the state, through the attorney general, from asserting a cause of action to recover damages or penalties, or assess or collect a penalty, resulting from a violation of <u>proposed law</u>.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 14:202.2)