

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 447

BY SENATOR MORRELL

CONTRACTORS. Requires the State Licensing Board for Contractors to provide testing specifically for solar installers. (8/1/14)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 37:2156.3, relative to the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors; to
3 provide relative to solar energy equipment and systems; to provide for examinations;
4 to provide for procedures, terms, and conditions; to provide for the adoption of rules;
5 and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 37:2156.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 **§2156.3. Installation of solar energy equipment and systems**

9 **A. No licensed contractor shall install solar energy equipment or solar**
10 **energy systems on or after February 1, 2015, unless he is in compliance with the**
11 **provisions of this Section and any rules adopted by the board in accordance**
12 **with the provisions of this Section.**

13 **B. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no later than**
14 **January 1, 2015, the board shall adopt rules in accordance with the**
15 **Administrative Procedure Act regulating the installation of solar energy**
16 **equipment or solar energy systems by licensed contractors. Such rules shall, at**
17 **a minimum, include the requirement of passage of a separate written**

1 examination that evidences the contractor's knowledge and understanding of
2 best practices as related to the installation and maintenance of solar energy
3 equipment or solar energy systems by any contractor who does not hold a
4 current Solar PV Installer certification for solar electric systems, or a current
5 Solar Heating Installer certification for solar thermal hot water systems as
6 issued by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners.

7 C. Contractors applying for the classification of Solar Energy
8 Equipment, shall, in addition to all other application or licensing requirements,
9 meet the following requirements prior to issuance of this classification:

10 (1) Hold one or more of the following major classifications:

11 (a) Building Construction.

12 (b) Electrical Work.

13 (c) Mechanical Work.

14 (2) Complete training in the design of solar energy systems by an entity
15 and course approved by the board.

16 D. Any work performed to connect wiring or hookups for any
17 photovoltaic panel or system wherein the panel or system is of a value, including
18 labor, materials, rentals, and all direct and indirect project expenses, of ten
19 thousand dollars or more shall only be performed by a contractor or
20 subcontractor who holds the classification of Electrical Work or who may
21 perform electrical work under the provisions of R.S. 37:2156.2(IX)(B).

22 E. Any work performed to connect piping or equipment for any solar
23 thermal system wherein the system is of a value, including labor, materials,
24 rentals, and all direct and indirect project expenses, of ten thousand dollars or
25 more shall only be performed by a contractor or subcontractor who holds the
26 classification of Mechanical Work or who may perform mechanical work under
27 the provisions of R.S. 37:2156.2(IX)(B).

28 F. Entities engaging in the business of selling or leasing solar energy
29 equipment must possess a state contractor's license with the classification of

1 **Solar Energy Equipment, if the agreement between the entity and the purchaser**
2 **or lessee includes the installation of the solar energy equipment.**

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle Ducharme.

DIGEST

Morrell (SB 447)

Present law provides for the regulation of contractors by the La. State Licensing Board for Contractors (board).

Proposed law provides that no licensed contractor shall install solar energy equipment or solar energy systems on or after February 1, 2015, unless he is in compliance with the provisions of proposed law and any rules adopted by the board.

Proposed law provides that notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no later than January 1, 2015, the board shall adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act regulating the installation of solar energy equipment or solar energy systems by licensed contractors. Such rules shall, at a minimum, include the requirement of passage of a separate written examination that evidences the contractor's knowledge and understanding of best practices as related to the installation and maintenance of solar energy equipment or solar energy systems by any contractor who does not hold a current Solar PV Installer certification for solar electric systems, or a current Solar Heating Installer certification for solar thermal hot water systems as issued by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners.

Proposed law further provides that contractors applying for the classification of Solar Energy Equipment, shall, in addition to all other application or licensing requirements, meet the following requirements prior to issuance of this classification:

- (1) Hold one or more of the following major classifications:
 - (a) Building Construction.
 - (b) Electrical Work.
 - (c) Mechanical Work.
- (2) Complete training in the design of solar energy systems by an entity and course approved by the board.

Proposed law provides that any work performed to connect wiring or hookups for any photovoltaic panel or system wherein the panel or system is of a value, including labor, materials, rentals, and all direct and indirect project expenses, of \$10,000 or more shall only be performed by a contractor or subcontractor who holds the classification of Electrical Work or who may perform electrical work under certain provisions of law.

Proposed law provides that any work performed to connect piping or equipment for any solar thermal system wherein the system is of a value, including labor, materials, rentals, and all direct and indirect project expenses, of \$10,000 or more shall only be performed by a contractor or subcontractor who holds the classification of Mechanical Work or who may perform mechanical work under certain provision of law.

Proposed law provides that entities engaging in the business of selling or leasing solar energy equipment must possess a state contractor's license with the classification of Solar

Energy Equipment, if the agreement between the entity and the purchaser or lessee includes the installation of the solar energy equipment.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Adds R.S. 37:2156.3)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to the original bill

1. Provides that on or after February 1, 2015, no licensed contractor shall install solar energy equipment or solar energy systems unless he is compliance with the law.
2. Provides for the minimum requirements of rules adopted by the State Licensing Board for Contractors relative to a written examination for the installation and maintenance of solar energy equipment or solar energy systems.
3. Provides for licensure requirements and solar energy equipment classification requirements.
4. Removes references to solar electric systems and solar thermal systems.