

**Senate File 2127 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2127

BY ZUMBACH

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to commercially owned solar panel field  
2 installation on agricultural land.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 473.42 Agricultural land — solar  
2 panel eligibility.

3 1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise  
4 requires:

5 a. "Agricultural land" means land suitable for the use of  
6 farming.

7 b. "Commercially owned solar panel field" or "solar panel  
8 field" means a device or structural feature owned by a corporate  
9 entity that collects solar energy by means of converting solar  
10 radiation into thermal, mechanical, or electrical energy.

11 c. "Corn suitability rating" or "CSR" means the most recent  
12 corn suitability rating index as determined by the Iowa state  
13 university extension and outreach to rate different types of  
14 soil for potential row-crop productivity.

15 2. A commercially owned solar panel field shall not be  
16 installed upon agricultural land unless all of the following  
17 apply:

18 a. The agricultural land has a CSR of sixty-five or lower.

19 b. The solar panel field is not less than a one-half mile  
20 distance from surrounding solar panel fields.

21 c. The solar panel field is not less than one thousand two  
22 hundred fifty feet from the nearest adjacent landowner.

23 EXPLANATION

24 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
25 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

26 This bill relates to commercially owned solar panel field  
27 installation on agricultural land.

28 The bill defines "agricultural land" to mean land that  
29 is suitable for farming. The bill defines "corn suitability  
30 rating" (CSR) to mean Iowa state university extension and  
31 outreach's corn suitability rating index which determines the  
32 potential for row-crop productivity for a parcel of land. The  
33 bill defines "commercially owned solar panel" or "solar panel  
34 field" to include corporately owned devices or structural  
35 features that collect and convert solar radiation into other

1 energy.

2     The bill provides that the owner or manager of agricultural  
3 land shall not install a commercially owned solar panel field  
4 unless the solar panel field has a CSR of 65 or lower, the solar  
5 panel field is at least one-half mile from the next solar panel  
6 field, and the solar panel field is located at least 1,250 feet  
7 from the nearest neighboring landowner.