

Senate File 2321 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2321

BY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2127)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to utility-scale solar energy facilities
2 installation on agricultural land.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 476A.16 Agricultural land — solar
2 energy facilities.

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

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

7 b. "Utility-scale solar energy facility" or "solar energy
8 facility" means an assemblage of photovoltaic modules,
9 equipment, or structural features that collect and convert
10 incident solar radiation into thermal, mechanical, or
11 electrical energy, store such solar energy, or transform
12 such solar energy to transmission on the electric grid. A
13 "utility-scale solar energy facility" does not include a
14 solar energy facility for which the generated electricity is
15 planned to be primarily consumed on the property or immediately
16 adjacent property.

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

21 2. A utility-scale solar energy facility shall not be
22 installed upon agricultural land unless all of the following
23 apply:

24 a. The agricultural land has an average CSR of sixty-five or
25 lower.

26 b. The solar energy facility is not less than a one-half
27 mile distance from another utility-scale solar energy facility.

28 c. The solar energy facility is not less than one thousand
29 two hundred fifty feet from the nearest residence.

30 3. All distances shall be measured horizontally by standard
31 survey methods between the closest point of each location or
32 object.

33

EXPLANATION

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

1 This bill relates to utility-scale solar energy facility
2 installation on agricultural land.

3 The bill defines "agricultural land" to mean land that
4 is suitable for farming. The bill defines "utility-scale
5 solar energy facility" or "solar energy facility" to mean an
6 assemblage of photovoltaic modules, equipment, or structural
7 features that collect and convert incident solar radiation
8 into other specific forms of energy or transform the solar
9 energy to transmission on an electric grid. The bill defines
10 "corn suitability rating" (CSR) to mean Iowa state university
11 extension and outreach's corn suitability rating index which
12 determines the potential for row-crop productivity for a parcel
13 of land.

14 The bill provides that a utility-scale solar energy
15 facility shall not be installed on agricultural land unless the
16 agricultural land has a CSR of 65 or lower, the solar energy
17 facility is at least one-half mile from the next solar energy
18 facility, and the solar energy facility is located at least
19 1,250 feet from the nearest residence.

20 The bill provides that distances shall be measured
21 horizontally by standard survey methods between the closest
22 point of each location or object.