

REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

(7/23/2015, Amended in Committee)

[Initiative Ordinance - Environment Code - Clean Energy Right To Know Act]

Motion ordering submitted to the voters Ordinance amending the Environment Code to define the terms Clean Energy, Green Energy, and Renewable Greenhouse Gas-free Energy to provide San Francisco residents and businesses accurate information regarding electric power; and requiring the Department of the Environment to identify power sourced from nuclear power plants.

Existing Law

N/A

Amendments to Current Law

This motion proposes to place on the November 3, 2015 ballot an initiative ordinance would define the terms Clean Energy, Green Energy and Renewable Greenhouse Gas-free Energy for use by City programs and City expenditures to be consistent with state law. The definitions would track the definitions provided by state law and include resources as set forth in Public Utilities Code § 399.30(j). The initiative ordinance would also require the Department of the Environment to inform electric customers in San Francisco of any electricity providers whose power resources include nuclear power. The Department of the Environment is required to work with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to develop any notices.

Background Information

There is no uniform standard for what constitutes Clean Energy, Green Energy, or Renewable Greenhouse Gas-free Energy, which can lead to customer confusion, misunderstanding of the definition of renewable energy, and conflicting claims regarding the source or environmental impacts of the electricity provided to San Franciscans. San Francisco residents and businesses deserve to have accurate information regarding the sources and environmental impacts of the energy provided to them

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