



Am. Sub. Senate Bill 232

(As Passed by the Senate)

Energy Tax Reform + PACE

Sponsored by Senator Chris Widener



Support

Summary

- Expands the low-cost solar panel revolving loan program to include assisting owners of real property within a municipal corporation (rather than residents) with the installation and implementation of alternative energy technologies and energy efficiency technologies, products, and activities (instead of just solar panels) on their real property.
- Specifies that alternative energy technologies include solar photovoltaic or solar thermal energy, geothermal energy, and certain wind, biomass or gasification facilities defined in the bill as customer-generated energy projects.
- Provides that energy efficiency technologies, products, and activities are those that reduce energy consumption, allow for the reduction in demand, or support the production of clean, renewable energy.
- Renames the low-cost solar panel revolving loan program the alternative energy revolving loan program.

OEC Perspective

Ohio's uncompetitive tax rate on wind and solar installations is delaying and preventing the construction of clean energy projects across our state. Unless reformed, it will drive more of these projects to our competitor states. These projects do more than tap renewable energy and make us more energy independent; they also create new jobs and investment in Ohio.

The PACE (Property Accessed Clean Energy) provision will help enable property owners to improve the energy efficiency and energy performance of their real property—be it a home, office, shop, church, farm, or factory—through a low-cost, revolving loan fund administered by participating municipal corporations.

Ohio will save even more energy if the “free rider” portion of PACE is amended to require utility companies to make some effort to help encourage customers to take advantage of PACE financing.

The Ohio Environmental Council supports this bill.

Bill Ratings



This legislation will help resolve a serious problem that threatens Ohio's environment, and/or demonstrates significant leadership for Ohio's future.



This legislation will benefit Ohio's environment, or shows foresight in setting future environmental policy.



This legislation will somewhat - or on balance - benefit Ohio's environment.



This legislation will cause substantial harm to Ohio's environment, and demonstrates serious disregard for Ohio's future.



This legislation will harm Ohio's environment, or sets the state on the wrong path for future environmental policy.



This legislation will somewhat - or on balance - harm Ohio's environment.

