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

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SB 214 Original DIGEST Johns  
2015 Regular Session

Proposed law provides for legislative findings as follows:

- (1) It is in the public interest for purchasers and lessees of solar electric systems to be adequately informed of the potential savings associated with purchasing or leasing a solar electric system. As homeowners consider potential energy cost savings, it is essential that they are provided with sufficient information to make an informed decision.
- (2) It is in the public interest for the Louisiana Public Service Commission to issue rules and regulations to enforce proposed law and to provide for the effective oversight of agreements for the purchase or lease of solar electric systems by solar users in this state.

Proposed law defines the following terms as follows:

- (1) "Commission" means the Louisiana Public Service Commission.
- (2) "Solar company" means any individual or entity that acts as a seller or lessor of solar electric systems and any individual or entity who as part of their business installs or provides leasing of a solar electric system that is designed to connect with the distribution grid in order to provide electric power to end use customers in the state.
- (3) "Solar electric system" means a system consisting of photovoltaic panels with the primary purpose of converting sunlight to electrical energy and all equipment and apparatus necessary to connect, store, and process the electrical energy for connection to and use by an electrical load. "Solar electric system" shall include grid-connected net metering systems with or without battery backup, stand-alone alternating current (AC) systems, and stand-alone direct current (DC) systems. The eligible system components for a solar electric system include the following:
  - (a) For grid-connected, net metering solar electric systems, the components include photovoltaic panels, mounting systems, inverters, charge controllers, batteries, battery cases, alternating current (AC) and direct current (DC) disconnects, lightning and ground fault protection, junction boxes, remote metering display devices, and related electrical wiring materials from the photovoltaic panels to point of interconnection with the residence or electrical load.
  - (b) For stand-alone solar electric AC systems, the components include photovoltaic panels, mounting systems, inverters, charge controllers, batteries, battery cases, AC and DC disconnects, lightning and ground fault protection, junction boxes, remote

metering display devices, and related electrical wiring materials from the photovoltaic panels to point of interconnection with the residence or electrical load.

- (c) For stand-alone solar electric DC systems, the components include photovoltaic panels, mounting systems, charge controllers, batteries, battery cases, DC disconnects, lightning and ground fault protection, junction boxes, remote metering display devices, and related electrical wiring materials from the photovoltaic panels to point of interconnection with the residence or electrical load.
- (4) "Solar user" means any person residing in this state who receives part or all of their electricity through the use of a solar electric system or any person residing in this state that is contemplating entering into or has entered into a contract with a solar company for the purchase, installation, or leasing of a solar electric system.

Proposed law authorizes the commission to promulgate rules and regulations to govern the registration of solar companies with the commission, to conduct investigations, impose fees and penalties, and take actions necessary to assure proper implementation of the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the commission is authorized to retain outside assistance, including but not limited to special counsel or consultants as needed to assist the commission in enforcing proposed law.

Proposed law provides for certain regulatory disclosures to be made by a solar company to a solar user.

Proposed law provides for certain financial disclosures to be made by a solar company to a solar user.

Proposed law provides for certain safety and maintenance disclosures made by a solar company to a solar user.

Proposed law requires the commission to investigate any complaint received against a solar company related to a violation of proposed law, and if, after investigating such complaint, the commission finds there has been a violation, the commission, after notice and hearing, may impose an administrative penalty against the solar company. The commission shall promulgate rules and regulations to determine the appropriate penalties for violations of proposed law.

Proposed law shall not derogate from the commission's constitutional authority to regulate, as applicable, all common carriers and public utilities, particularly the authority to implement rules, regulations, and tariffs to ensure that neither an electric utility nor its ratepayers shall be adversely affected, or to subsidize activities authorized under proposed law.

Proposed law is not intended to preclude the filing of a civil suit for damages in the appropriate state or federal court nor does it criminal charges where appropriate. No purchase or lease agreement for

a solar electric system in this state shall contain a mandatory arbitration clause. The invocation of arbitration shall be voluntary at the discretion of the solar user and shall not preclude a complaint, civil suit, or criminal charges in state or federal court.

Effective August 1, 2015.

(Adds R.S. 45:844.61-844.68)