

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 59th Legislature

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| Bill No.: | SB 915 |
| Version: | CS |
| Request No.: | 1720 |
| Author: | Sen. Green |
| Date: | 03/04/2025 |

Bill Analysis

SB 915 requires commercial solar energy facilities constructed on land owned by the Commissioners of the Land Office on and after the effective date to be constructed on permanent grass that is suitable for livestock grazing. The measure provides the owners of such land immunity to liability for any damage to the facility caused by livestock. Such facilities must construct the panels at least 6 feet high from the lowest point of the solar panel and to provide at least 25 feet of space between each row of panels. Such panels must be setback at least 300 yards from the nearest point on the outside wall of any residential dwelling and provide optimal runoff flow. The measure provides such facilities shall be liable for all soil erosion occurring along the land with the installed panels. The Commissioners of the Land Office shall be required to make a payment in lieu of ad valorem taxes if the property has a commercial solar facility installed. The payment shall be made no later than December 31 of each year. Leasing agreements offered to a landowner by an operator of a solar energy facility shall offer the same provisions outlined above to the landowner. The measure provides that the monetary rate offered in such leasing agreements shall be proportional to the amount of power generated by the operator of the commercial solar energy facility.

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor