

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2200 (Hart) – As Amended April 13, 2026

Policy Committee: Utilities and Energy

Vote: 17 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill declares a controlled environment horticulture space, such as a greenhouse, that uses single-paned glass windows and either thermal curtains, thermal screens, shade cloths or equivalent technologies is to be considered compliant under the California Energy Code, provided that the California Energy Commission (CEC) makes a finding that the arrangement is as, or more, energy efficient than current regulations.

The bill also directs the Building Standards Commission to adopt permanent building standards that allow use of such technologies as part of the next update of the California Building Standards, provided CEC has made the finding described above.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

This bill creates new analytical work for the CEC. However, this work is compatible with the work it already performs on building energy efficiency standards, pursuant to existing law. The CEC assumes it could complete this work with its existing resources.

**COMMENTS:**

Existing law authorizes the Building Standards Commission, within the Department of General Services, to approve and adopt building standards through a triennial rulemaking process to revise and update the California Building Standards Code. There are approximately twenty state agencies that develop building standards and submit them to the Building Standards Commission for review, approval and adoption.

State law charges the CEC with regulating the lighting, insulation, climate control system and other building design and construction standards that increase efficiency in the use of energy and water for new residential and new nonresidential buildings. The law further directs the CEC to periodically update the standards and adopt any revision that, in the CEC's judgment, is necessary. Ultimately, the CEC submits its standards to the Building Standards Commission for adoption into the California Building Standards Code.

The 2022 California Building Standards Code, based on CEC regulations, provides standards for controlled environment horticulture spaces, such as greenhouses. Specifically, the standards require a nonopaque building, such as a greenhouse with glass walls or roof, to have, at least, double-paned windows. Bill supporter Windset Farms—which describes itself as one of the largest greenhouse agricultural facilities in the United States—asserts these standards have

created “unintended impacts,” and that “Double-pane glazing requirements can reduce light transmission by approximately 15%, directly lowering crop yields and making new greenhouse development in California economically infeasible.” Windset Farms goes on to describe the technologies it uses in its greenhouses as “engineered thermal screens that provide highly effective insulation while maintaining optimal light transmission” that “significantly reduce heat loss, minimize energy demand, and allow for precise climate control without compromising crop productivity.”

Yet, even if Windset Farms’ claims are true, such technology does not satisfy the state’s building standards. This bill would change that, provided the CEC makes certain findings. According to the author:

AB 2200 will give food producers flexibility in meeting energy efficiency standards in ways that are tailored to local conditions and specific crop needs, helping keep costs down and produce more affordable produce...AB 2200 helps support innovative greenhouses, bolster crop production, and keep more farms here in California by creating a narrow exemption for greenhouses that utilize single-paned windows.

There is no opposition registered against this bill.

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