

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 2200 (Hart)

As Amended April 13, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

This bill deems a controlled environment horticulture facility – such as a greenhouse – that uses single-pane glass windows in combination with thermal curtains, thermal screens, shade cloth, or equivalent technologies to be in compliance with the California Energy Code, provided the California Energy Commission (CEC) determines that the arrangement is at least as energy efficient as current code requirements.

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.

Major Provisions**COMMENTS**

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.

This bill seeks to enable certain greenhouses to meet California's Building Standards if the CEC makes a finding that their unique arrangement is equivalent to existing permitted arrangements. This would allow new facilities to use single-paned windows paired with retractable thermal curtain systems (or other alternative technologies) in lieu of the double-paned glazing currently required under the 2022 Energy Code. The bill is premised on the position that certain advanced greenhouse systems, such as KUBO's Ultra-Clima used by Windset Farms across its 168-acre Santa Maria operation, are specifically engineered around single-paned glass and thermal curtains as an integrated climate control system, and that forcing compliance with the existing double-pane requirement undermines the viability of these single-paned designs without a corresponding energy efficiency benefit.

According to the Author

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. Current energy regulations require double-paned windows for new agricultural greenhouses to improve energy efficiency. Many

greenhouse systems, however, rely on the temperate climate and extensive sunlight found in much of California. Single-paned windows with curtain systems provide the necessary sunlight into these greenhouses and give growers the ability to adjust to changing conditions for optimal crop growth and yield. 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."

Arguments in Support

This bill is supported by Windset Farms, which describes itself as one of the largest greenhouse agricultural facilities in the United States. Windset asserts the 2022 Building Standards have created "unintended impacts," and that the current "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."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, this bill will create new work for the CEC. The CEC notes it can complete the work with its existing resources.

VOTES

ASM UTILITIES AND ENERGY: 17-0-1

YES: Petrie-Norris, Patterson, Boerner, Calderon, Davies, Mark González, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Kalra, Papan, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Ta, Wallis, Zbur

ABS, ABST OR NV: Chen

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula

UPDATED

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