Date of Hearing: April 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
AB 2458 (Bennett) – As Introduced February 20, 2026

Policy Committee: Utilities and Energy Vote: 17 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill expands authority in existing law provided to the California Energy Commission (CEC) to establish standards for minimum levels of energy and water operating efficiency applicable to appliances sold in the state to additionally apply to appliances rented, imported, distributed or leased in the state.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Minor, absorbable costs to the CEC to extend its existing efficiency regulations to appliances that are rented, imported, distributed or leased in the state.

COMMENTS:

Existing law authorizes the CEC to adopt standards for minimum levels of operating efficiency for appliances the use of which requires a significant amount of energy or water and empowers the CEC to enforce those standards. The law provides that a new appliance manufactured on or after the effective date of CEC's standards is not to be sold or offered for sale in California, unless it is certified by the manufacturer of the appliance to comply with CEC's standards. The law, however, says nothing about appliances to be rented, imported, distributed or leased in California. The author intends this bill to allow the CEC to apply its existing appliance regulations to "all appliances used in California which will ultimately provide commercial appliance users a means by which to reduce their energy costs."

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