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AN ACT  
RELATING TO PROPERTY LAW; AMENDING THE DEFINITION OF "SOLAR  
COLLECTOR" IN THE SOLAR RIGHTS ACT; INVALIDATING RESTRICTIONS  
ON THE INSTALLATION OR USE OF SOLAR COLLECTORS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of Chapter 3, Article 18 NMSA  
1978 is enacted to read:

"LIMITATION OF COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL RESTRICTIONS ON  
SOLAR COLLECTORS.--

A. A county or municipality shall not restrict the  
installation of a solar collector as defined pursuant to the  
Solar Rights Act, except that placement of solar collectors  
in historic districts may be regulated or restricted by a  
county or municipality.

B. A covenant, restriction or condition contained  
in a deed, contract, security agreement or other instrument,  
effective after July 1, 1978, affecting the transfer, sale or  
use of, or an interest in, real property that effectively  
prohibits the installation or use of a solar collector is  
void and unenforceable."

Section 2. Section 47-3-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1977,  
Chapter 169, Section 1) is amended to read:

"47-3-1. SHORT TITLE.--Sections 47-3-1 through 47-3-5  
NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Solar Rights Act"."

1 Section 3. Section 47-3-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1977,  
2 Chapter 169, Section 3) is amended to read:

3 "47-3-3. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Solar Rights Act:

4 A. "solar collector" means a device, substance or  
5 element, or a combination of devices, substances or elements,  
6 that relies upon sunshine as an energy source and that is  
7 capable of collecting not less than twenty-five thousand  
8 British thermal units on a clear winter solstice day or that  
9 is used for the conveyance of light to the interior of a  
10 building. The term also includes any device, substance or  
11 element that collects solar energy for use in:

12 (1) the heating or cooling of a structure or  
13 building;

14 (2) the heating or pumping of water;

15 (3) industrial, commercial or agricultural  
16 processes; or

17 (4) the generation of electricity.

18 A solar collector may be used for purposes in addition  
19 to the collection of solar energy. These uses include, but  
20 are not limited to, serving as a structural member or part of  
21 a roof of a building or structure and serving as a window or  
22 wall; and

23 B. "solar right" means a right to an unobstructed  
24 line-of-sight path from a solar collector to the sun, which  
25 permits radiation from the sun to impinge directly on the  
*solar collector.*