**BILL SUMMARY**
1st Session of the 60th Legislature

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| **Bill No.:** | **SB915** |
| **Version:** | **CS** |
| **Request Number:** | **13606** |
| **Author:** | **Rep. Boles** |
| **Date:** | **5/1/2025** |
| **Impact:** | **Corp. Comm.- $128,000** |
| | **CLO- See Analysis Below** |

## Research Analysis

The committee substitute for SB 915 requires commercial solar facilities that are located on land leased by the Commissioners of the Land Office to be:

- Installed on permanent grass suitable for livestock grazing and allow for the grazing of livestock;
- At least six feet high from the lowest point of the solar panel;
- At least 25 feet between rows;
- At least 500 feet away from an occupied residence, unless waived in writing by the residence owner;
- Promote optimal runoff flow; and
- Liable for all soil erosion where the panels are installed.

Any lease agreement offered to a landowner by a solar energy facility must meet the same requirements. However, the landowner may waive them.

These provisions apply to any future 10 MW or larger solar energy and associated battery storage facilities on CLO land, and any project on CLO land that is in development that does not yet have an interconnection agreement in place.

Lastly, the commercial solar facility owners are required to pay ad valorem taxes and any other assessments on improvements to the facilities to the appropriate county treasurer by December 31 of each year.

Prepared By: Emily Byrne

## Fiscal Analysis

The committee substitute to SB 915 establishes guidelines for commercial solar energy facilities constructed on land owned and leased by the Commissioners of the Land Office (CLO). The provisions of this measure will be applicable to projects that do not have an agreement in place on or after the effective date.

The CLO has identified potential solar facility leases that may be at risk of cancellation as a result of these guidelines. CLO has estimated the following losses in distributions to the agency's beneficiaries as a result of the potential cancellations:

**K-12 Schools**: Up to $1,086,000 in FY-26
**Higher Education**: Up to $285,000 in FY-26
**State Agencies**: Up to $546,000 in FY-26

The measure also requires the owner of the commercial solar energy facility to pay ad valorem taxes on improvements made to the land. Per the CLO, this section of the measure would have a minimal fiscal impact to the agency.

This measure directs the Corporation Commission to enforce the provisions and promulgate rules regarding these commercial solar energy facility requirements. The Corporation Commission estimates the total recurring fiscal impact of this measure to be One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars ($120,000) along with a one-time fiscal impact of Eight Thousand Dollars ($8,000) to promulgate rules.

As written, the total fiscal impact of this measure on FY-26 budgetary resources is One Hundred Twenty Eight Thousand Dollars ($128,000).

Prepared By: Jay St Clair, House Fiscal Staff

**Other Considerations**

None.