

HB 25-1096: AUTOMATED PERMITS FOR CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Smith; Brown

Sen. Ball

Published for: House Second Reading

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Fiscal note status: The revised fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, as amended by the House Energy

and Environment Committee and the House Finance Committee.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill requires certain local governments to use automated permitting software for residential solar energy systems.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

• Minimal State Workload

Local Government

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Expenditures (Cash Funds)	\$ 0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill removes a restriction on when local governments can receive grants from the <u>Automated Permit Processing For Solar (APPS) Grant Program</u> in the Colorado Energy Office (CEO). It also reauthorizes CEO's use of funds for its administrative expenses.

State Expenditures

The bill increases workload in the Colorado Energy Office, whose costs are paid from the Streamlined Solar Permitting and Inspection Cash Fund, to the extent that more local governments apply for grants. This can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Local Government

In FY 2025-26, the bill increases revenue for jurisdictions awarded grants from CEO. Beginning in FY 2026-27, workload may decrease in local governments based on the number of permits approved via software instead of manual review.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

The bill results in no net change in appropriations for the Colorado Energy Office, as the balance of the Streamlined Solar Permitting and Inspection Cash Fund is typically appropriated to the office. If the bill results in more grants awarded in FY 2025-26, it will decrease appropriations in future years.

State and Local Government Contacts

Colorado Energy Office Counties Law Legislative Council Staff Regulatory Agencies