

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 25-0666.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

HOUSE BILL 25-1096

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Smith and Brown,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Ball,

House Committees

Energy & Environment
Finance

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING AUTOMATED PERMITTING FOR RESIDENTIAL CLEAN**
102 **ENERGY TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires counties with a population of more than 5,000 residents in unincorporated areas and municipalities with a population of more than 5,000 residents to adopt an ordinance or resolution that would implement an automated residential solar permitting platform (platform). The platform would automatically review an application for a residential solar panel installation and issue a permit for the residential solar panel

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

installation project if the project is code-compliant and meets certain criteria.

The platform utilized by a county or municipality must be used for at least 75% of the residential solar panel installation permit applications submitted to the local jurisdiction. The platform will only be used for solar panel installations that will be installed on existing residential buildings, have a maximum capacity of 200 amperes main service disconnect, and provide electrical power to single-family or 2-family residential property.

A county or municipality required to implement the platform must notify the Colorado energy office (office) of its compliance with the requirements of the bill and submit an annual report to the office related to the use of the platform and the type of software used.

Counties and municipalities are also eligible to receive funding and technical assistance from the office to implement platforms.

The office is required to submit a report to the general assembly related to the use of automated permitting software for other residential electrification projects, such as electric vehicle charging stations and heat pump space heaters, and the costs and benefits of implementing the automated software. The office must submit the report by July 1, 2026.

The state electrical board in the department of regulatory agencies is also required to implement a platform for use in its issuance and review of electrical permits related to residential solar panel installations. The board must also notify the office of its compliance with adopting the platform and submit an annual report to the office related to the board's use of the platform.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-38.5-119, **amend** (2)(b), (3)(b), (3)(c), and (4) as follows:

24-38.5-119. Streamlined solar permitting and inspection grant program - creation - eligibility - fund created - gifts, grants, or donations - reporting - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal.

(2) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(b) "Automated permitting and inspection software" OR "AUTOMATED PERMITTING SOFTWARE" means a web-based portal that

1 implements automated plan review, verifies local code compliance, and
2 issues permits for electric power systems that is developed by a national
3 organization focused on clean energy research, development, and
4 deployment in collaboration with building and safety industry experts.

5 (3) The grant program is created to allow an authority having
6 jurisdiction to apply to the office for a grant to help provide
7 implementation support to the authority having jurisdiction for
8 implementation of automated permitting software. In administering the
9 grant program, the office shall:

10 (b) Develop procedures to award a grant to an authority having
11 jurisdiction for expenses expected to be incurred in adopting automated
12 permitting software, including necessary expenses for staff time,
13 information technology, training, installation, third-party consulting,
14 ongoing maintenance for up to three years AFTER THE GRANTEE
15 IMPLEMENTS THE AUTOMATED PERMITTING SOFTWARE, and hardware or
16 equipment;

17 (c) Not award money to an authority having jurisdiction for:

18 (I) Expected costs associated with software other than automated
19 permitting software;

20 (II) Activities occurring before being awarded grant program
21 money; ~~or more than one hundred eighty days after receiving grant~~
22 ~~program money,~~

23 (III) Food and OR beverage costs;

24 (IV) Fines OR penalties;

25 (V) Advertising; or

26 (VI) Permit processing fees, including fees charged by the
27 operator of automated permitting software;

1 (4) (a) The office may use up to nine percent of the money in the
2 fund to ~~cover~~ PAY FOR the direct and indirect costs that the office incurs
3 in administering the grant program.

4 (b) THE OFFICE MAY USE UP TO NINE PERCENT OF THE MONEY
5 REMAINING IN THE FUND AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, TO PAY FOR THE
6 DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS THAT THE OFFICE INCURS IN ADMINISTERING
7 THE GRANT PROGRAM.

8 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
9 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
10 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
11 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
12 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
13 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
14 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
15 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
16 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.