

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0666.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

HOUSE BILL 25-1096

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Smith and Brown,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Ball,

House Committees
Energy & Environment

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING AUTOMATED PERMITTING FOR RESIDENTIAL CLEAN
102 ENERGY TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS, AND, IN CONNECTION
103 THEREWITH, REQUIRING COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES OVER
104 A CERTAIN POPULATION AND THE STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD TO
105 IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING
106 PLATFORM TO REVIEW AND ISSUE PERMITS RELATED TO
107 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATIONS.

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>.)

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.

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 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.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) Colorado has adopted economy-wide greenhouse gas emission
5 reduction goals of at least a 50% reduction by 2030 and a 90% reduction
6 by 2050;

1 (b) Residential solar panel installations are key components for
2 the state to meet its greenhouse gas emission goals;

3 (c) Outdated and bureaucratic permitting requirements in many
4 jurisdictions combined with staffing shortages can add months of delays
5 and thousands of dollars to residential solar panel installations;

6 (d) Colorado has the third slowest solar permitting timelines in the
7 western United States;

8 (e) The Solar Energy Industries Associates estimates that
9 permitting and other bureaucratic barriers increase costs by over \$6,000
10 for the typical residential solar project;

11 (f) The price tag of residential solar in the United States is
12 approximately double the price tag in Europe, which has virtually
13 eliminated permitting and other bureaucratic barriers;

14 (g) Once a homeowner applies for a solar permit, approximately
15 18% of projects are cancelled, and installers cite permitting issues as the
16 biggest reason for the cancellations;

17 (h) Hundreds of jurisdictions across the country use automated
18 residential solar permitting software that is available for free or for a low
19 cost to automatically review residential solar panel installation
20 applications; and

21 (i) Automatic permitting has the potential to reduce the costs of
22 residential solar panel installation and reduce installation timelines, thus
23 enabling more homeowners to install residential solar panels on their
24 homes.

25 (2) The general assembly further declares that it is a matter of
26 statewide interest and it is in the best interest of Colorado to allow
27 homeowners in Colorado to receive automatic permits for residential

1 solar panel installations.

2 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 30-28-141 as
3 follows:

4 **30-28-141. Automated residential solar permitting - county**
5 **requirements - reporting - definitions - repeal. (1) Definitions.** AS

6 USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7 (a) "AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM" OR
8 "PLATFORM" MEANS SOFTWARE, OR A COMBINATION OF SOFTWARE, THAT:

9 (I) ACCEPTS AND AUTOMATES THE REVIEW OF AN APPLICATION FOR
10 A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION;

11 (II) AUTOMATICALLY PRODUCES COUNTY CODE-COMPLIANT
12 APPROVALS FOR A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION THAT MEETS
13 THE COUNTY'S PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS;

14 (III) ACCEPTS PAYMENT OF ANY APPLICABLE COUNTY PERMITTING
15 FEES; AND

16 (IV) AUTOMATICALLY ISSUES A PERMIT OR PERMIT REVISION FOR
17 A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION ONCE AN INDIVIDUAL HAS
18 SUBMITTED APPROVED, CODE-COMPLIANT PLANS AND PAYS ANY
19 APPLICABLE PERMITTING FEES RELATED TO THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL
20 INSTALLATION.

21 (b) "OFFICE" MEANS THE COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE CREATED IN
22 SECTION 24-38.5-101.

23 (c) "PERMIT" MEANS A PERMIT ISSUED BY A COUNTY THAT IS
24 REQUIRED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS ON A RESIDENTIAL
25 PROPERTY AND MAY INCLUDE AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT, CONSTRUCTION
26 PERMIT, OR OTHER TYPE OF PERMIT.

27 (2) **Automated residential solar permitting required.**

1 (a) (I) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE BOARD OF COUNTY
2 COMMISSIONERS OF A COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF MORE THAN FIVE
3 THOUSAND RESIDENTS IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY SHALL
4 ADOPT AN ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION TO IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATED
5 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM THAT MUST HAVE THE
6 ESTIMATED CAPABILITY TO PROCESS AT LEAST SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF
7 APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE COUNTY FOR RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL
8 INSTALLATIONS AT EXISTING RESIDENCES.

9 (II) THE PLATFORM IMPLEMENTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION
10 (2)(a) SHALL BE USED FOR AT LEAST SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE
11 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO
12 A COUNTY THAT:

- 13 (A) WILL BE INSTALLED ON EXISTING RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS;
- 14 (B) HAVE A MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF TWO HUNDRED AMPERES
15 MAIN SERVICE DISCONNECT; AND
- 16 (C) PROVIDE ELECTRICAL POWER TO A SINGLE-FAMILY OR
17 TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.

18 (III) THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM
19 SHALL ALSO BE UTILIZED TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL
20 SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATIONS THAT UTILIZE A HOME BATTERY STORAGE
21 SYSTEM, A MAIN PANEL UPGRADE, OR A MAIN BREAKER DERATE IN
22 CONJUNCTION WITH THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION.

23 (b) (I) A COUNTY THAT IS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT AN
24 AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM PURSUANT TO
25 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT REQUIRE MANUAL REVIEW
26 OF AN APPLICATION FOR A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION ON
27 AN EXISTING RESIDENCE AT ANY TIME DURING THE PERMITTING PROCESS

1 IF THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE PLATFORM.

2 (II) COUNTY STAFF MAY CONDUCT A MANUAL REVIEW OF
3 CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS RELATED TO A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL
4 INSTALLATION WHEN CONDUCTING AN INSPECTION OF THE RESIDENTIAL
5 SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION.

6 (c) A COUNTY THAT IS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATED
7 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
8 (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION MAY SOLICIT INPUT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
9 FROM THE OFFICE FOR IMPLEMENTING AND USING THE PLATFORM.

10 (d) A COUNTY THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE A PERMIT FOR A
11 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION IS EXEMPT FROM THE
12 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

13 (3) **Reporting - rules.** (a) A BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
14 THAT IS REQUIRED TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION TO
15 IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM
16 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION SHALL DIRECT THE
17 COUNTY OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PLATFORM TO
18 NOTIFY THE OFFICE WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE COUNTY'S COMPLIANCE
19 WITH SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION. THE NOTICE PROVIDED TO
20 THE OFFICE MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

21 (I) AN ATTESTATION THAT THE ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION
22 ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO IMPLEMENT THE
23 AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM COMPLIES WITH
24 THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION; AND

25 (II) THE NAMES OR TYPES OF SOFTWARE OF THE AUTOMATED
26 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM USED BY THE COUNTY.

27 (b) A BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THAT IS REQUIRED TO

1 ADOPT AN ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION TO IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATED
2 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
3 (2)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION SHALL DIRECT THE COUNTY OFFICE RESPONSIBLE
4 FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PLATFORM TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
5 OFFICE. THE ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE MUST INCLUDE
6 THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

7 (I) THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION
8 PERMITS ISSUED USING THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING
9 PLATFORM;

10 (II) THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION
11 PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COUNTY THAT DID NOT USE THE AUTOMATED
12 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM AND ANY RELEVANT
13 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATIONS
14 THAT REQUIRED MANUAL REVIEW FOR THE PERMITS;

15 (III) THE NAMES OR TYPES OF SOFTWARE OF THE AUTOMATED
16 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM USED BY THE COUNTY IF THE
17 COUNTY HAS CHANGED THE NAMES OR TYPES OF SOFTWARE USED BY THE
18 COUNTY WITHIN THE PREVIOUS YEAR; AND

19 (IV) A PLAN TO INCREASE THE USAGE OF THE AUTOMATED
20 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM IF LESS THAN SEVENTY-FIVE
21 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION PERMITS
22 ISSUED BY THE COUNTY WERE ISSUED THROUGH THE PLATFORM.

23 (c) (I) FOR THE REPORTING REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (3)(a) AND
24 (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION, THE OFFICE SHALL:

25 (A) CREATE A FORM TO BE USED BY COUNTY STAFF TO SUBMIT THE
26 INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION;

27 (B) CREATE A FORM TO BE USED BY COUNTY STAFF TO SUBMIT THE

1 INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION; AND

2 (C) ESTABLISH, BY RULE, A DATE EACH YEAR BY WHICH A COUNTY
3 SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF THIS
4 SECTION.

5 (II) THE OFFICE SHALL REVIEW THE REPORTS SUBMITTED BY THE
6 COUNTY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (3)(a) AND (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION
7 AND MAY:

8 (A) DETERMINE IF THE REPORTS ARE ACCURATE;

9 (B) MAKE THE REPORTS AND THE OFFICE'S FINDINGS REGARDING
10 THE REPORTS' ACCURACY PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON THE OFFICE'S PUBLIC
11 WEBSITE; AND

12 (C) TAKE ACTIONS TO ENCOURAGE THE COUNTY'S COMPLIANCE
13 WITH SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

14 (d) THIS SUBSECTION (3) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,
15 2032.

16 (4) **Inspections.** (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE BOARD OF
17 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF A COUNTY THAT IS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT
18 AN AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM PURSUANT TO
19 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION SHALL ADOPT AN ORDINANCE OR
20 RESOLUTION TO ALLOW REMOTE INSPECTIONS VIA RECORDED VIDEO OR
21 PHOTOGRAPHY OF RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATIONS THAT HAVE
22 RECEIVED A PERMIT OR PERMIT REVISION THROUGH THE PLATFORM. THE
23 REMOTE INSPECTIONS MUST BE OFFERED AT NO GREATER COST TO THE
24 PERMIT HOLDER AND MADE AVAILABLE WITH NO GREATER DELAY THAN AN
25 IN-PERSON INSPECTION.

26 (b) A COUNTY SHALL NOT REQUIRE MORE THAN ONE INSPECTION
27 FOR A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION THAT IS PERMITTED BY

1 THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM UNLESS THE
2 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION FAILED AN INITIAL INSPECTION.

3 (5) **Funding.** A COUNTY THAT IS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT AN
4 AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM PURSUANT TO
5 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION MAY APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE
6 STREAMLINED SOLAR PERMITTING AND INSPECTION GRANT PROGRAM IN
7 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-38.5-119.

8 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 31-23-317 as
9 follows:

10 **31-23-317. Automated residential solar permitting - municipal**
11 **requirements - reporting - definitions - repeal. (1) Definitions.** AS
12 USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

13 (a) "AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM" OR
14 "PLATFORM" MEANS SOFTWARE, OR A COMBINATION OF SOFTWARE, THAT:

15 (I) ACCEPTS AND AUTOMATES THE REVIEW OF AN APPLICATION FOR
16 A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION;

17 (II) AUTOMATICALLY PRODUCES MUNICIPAL CODE-COMPLIANT
18 APPROVALS FOR A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION THAT MEETS
19 THE MUNICIPALITY'S PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS;

20 (III) ACCEPTS PAYMENT OF ANY APPLICABLE MUNICIPAL
21 PERMITTING FEES; AND

22 (IV) AUTOMATICALLY ISSUES A PERMIT OR PERMIT REVISION FOR
23 A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION ONCE AN INDIVIDUAL HAS
24 SUBMITTED APPROVED, CODE-COMPLIANT PLANS AND PAYS ANY
25 APPLICABLE PERMITTING FEES RELATED TO THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL
26 INSTALLATION.

27 (b) "OFFICE" MEANS THE COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE CREATED IN

1 SECTION 24-38.5-101.

2 (c) "PERMIT" MEANS A PERMIT ISSUED BY A MUNICIPALITY THAT
3 IS REQUIRED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS ON A RESIDENTIAL
4 PROPERTY AND MAY INCLUDE AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT, CONSTRUCTION
5 PERMIT, OR OTHER TYPE OF PERMIT.

6 (2) **Automated residential solar permitting required.**

7 (a) (I) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE GOVERNING BODY OF A
8 MUNICIPALITY WITH A POPULATION OF MORE THAN FIVE THOUSAND
9 RESIDENTS SHALL ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATED
10 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM THAT MUST HAVE THE
11 ESTIMATED CAPABILITY TO PROCESS AT LEAST SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF
12 APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE MUNICIPALITY FOR RESIDENTIAL SOLAR
13 PANEL INSTALLATIONS AT EXISTING RESIDENCES.

14 (II) THE PLATFORM IMPLEMENTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION
15 (2)(a) SHALL BE USED FOR AT LEAST SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE
16 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO
17 A MUNICIPALITY THAT:

18 (A) WILL BE INSTALLED ON EXISTING RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS;

19 (B) HAVE A MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF TWO HUNDRED AMPERES
20 MAIN SERVICE DISCONNECT; AND

21 (C) PROVIDE ELECTRICAL POWER TO A SINGLE-FAMILY OR
22 TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.

23 (III) THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM
24 SHALL ALSO BE UTILIZED TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL
25 SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATIONS THAT UTILIZE A HOME BATTERY STORAGE
26 SYSTEM, A MAIN PANEL UPGRADE, OR A MAIN BREAKER DERATE IN
27 CONJUNCTION WITH THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION.

1 (b) (I) A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT AN
2 AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM PURSUANT TO
3 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT REQUIRE MANUAL REVIEW
4 OF AN APPLICATION FOR A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION ON
5 AN EXISTING RESIDENCE AT ANY TIME DURING THE PERMITTING PROCESS
6 IF THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE PLATFORM.

7 (II) MUNICIPAL STAFF MAY CONDUCT A MANUAL REVIEW OF
8 CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS RELATED TO A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL
9 INSTALLATION WHEN CONDUCTING AN INSPECTION OF THE RESIDENTIAL
10 SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION.

11 (c) A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT AN
12 AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM PURSUANT TO
13 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION MAY SOLICIT INPUT AND TECHNICAL
14 ASSISTANCE FROM THE OFFICE FOR IMPLEMENTING AND USING THE
15 PLATFORM.

16 (d) A MUNICIPALITY THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE A PERMIT FOR A
17 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION IS EXEMPT FROM THE
18 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

19 (3) **Reporting - rules.** (a) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A
20 MUNICIPALITY THAT IS REQUIRED TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT
21 AN AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM PURSUANT TO
22 SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION SHALL DIRECT THE MUNICIPAL
23 OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PLATFORM TO NOTIFY THE
24 OFFICE WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE MUNICIPALITY'S COMPLIANCE WITH
25 SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION. THE NOTICE PROVIDED TO THE
26 OFFICE MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

27 (I) AN ATTESTATION THAT THE ORDINANCE ADOPTED BY THE

1 GOVERNING BODY OF THE MUNICIPALITY TO IMPLEMENT THE AUTOMATED
2 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM COMPLIES WITH THE
3 REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION; AND

4 (II) THE NAMES OR TYPES OF SOFTWARE OF THE AUTOMATED
5 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM USED BY THE MUNICIPALITY.

6 (b) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS REQUIRED
7 TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL
8 SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I) OF THIS
9 SECTION SHALL DIRECT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR
10 IMPLEMENTING THE PLATFORM TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
11 OFFICE. THE ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE MUST INCLUDE
12 THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

13 (I) THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION
14 PERMITS ISSUED USING THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING
15 PLATFORM;

16 (II) THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION
17 PERMITS ISSUED BY THE MUNICIPALITY THAT DID NOT USE THE
18 AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM AND ANY
19 RELEVANT CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL
20 INSTALLATIONS THAT REQUIRED MANUAL REVIEW FOR THE PERMITS;

21 (III) THE NAMES OR TYPES OF SOFTWARE OF THE AUTOMATED
22 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM USED BY THE MUNICIPALITY
23 IF THE MUNICIPALITY HAS CHANGED THE NAMES OR TYPES OF SOFTWARE
24 USED BY THE MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE PREVIOUS YEAR; AND

25 (IV) A PLAN TO INCREASE THE USAGE OF THE AUTOMATED
26 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM IF LESS THAN SEVENTY-FIVE
27 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION PERMITS

1 ISSUED BY THE MUNICIPALITY WERE ISSUED THROUGH THE PLATFORM.

2 (c) (I) FOR THE REPORTING REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (3)(a) AND
3 (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION, THE OFFICE SHALL:

4 (A) CREATE A FORM TO BE USED BY MUNICIPAL STAFF TO SUBMIT
5 THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION;

6 (B) CREATE A FORM TO BE USED BY MUNICIPAL STAFF TO SUBMIT
7 THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION; AND

8 (C) ESTABLISH, BY RULE, A DATE EACH YEAR BY WHICH A
9 MUNICIPALITY SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION
10 (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

11 (II) THE OFFICE SHALL REVIEW THE REPORTS SUBMITTED BY THE
12 MUNICIPALITY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (3)(a) AND (3)(b) OF THIS
13 SECTION AND MAY:

14 (A) DETERMINE IF THE REPORTS ARE ACCURATE;

15 (B) MAKE THE REPORTS AND THE OFFICE'S FINDINGS REGARDING
16 THE REPORTS' ACCURACY PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON THE OFFICE'S PUBLIC
17 WEBSITE; AND

18 (C) TAKE ACTIONS TO ENCOURAGE THE MUNICIPALITY'S
19 COMPLIANCE WITH SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

20 (d) THIS SUBSECTION (3) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,
21 2032.

22 (4) **Inspections.** (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE GOVERNING
23 BODY OF A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT AN
24 AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM PURSUANT TO
25 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION SHALL ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO
26 ALLOW REMOTE INSPECTIONS VIA RECORDED VIDEO OR PHOTOGRAPHY OF
27 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATIONS THAT HAVE RECEIVED A

1 PERMIT OR PERMIT REVISION THROUGH THE PLATFORM. THE REMOTE
2 INSPECTIONS MUST BE OFFERED AT NO GREATER COST TO THE PERMIT
3 HOLDER AND MADE AVAILABLE WITH NO GREATER DELAY THAN AN
4 IN-PERSON INSPECTION.

5 (b) A MUNICIPALITY SHALL NOT REQUIRE MORE THAN ONE
6 INSPECTION FOR A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION THAT IS
7 PERMITTED BY THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING
8 PLATFORM UNLESS THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION FAILED
9 AN INITIAL INSPECTION.

10 (5) **Funding.** A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT
11 AN AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM PURSUANT TO
12 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION MAY APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE
13 STREAMLINED SOLAR PERMITTING AND INSPECTION GRANT PROGRAM IN
14 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-38.5-119.

15 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-115-107, **add** (5)
16 as follows:

17 **12-115-107. Board powers and duties - electrical permit for**
18 **residential solar panel installations - rules - definitions - repeal.**

19 (5) **Automated residential solar permitting program platform.**

20 (a) **Rules.** (I) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT
21 RULES THAT REQUIRE THAT THE BOARD IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATED
22 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM TO AUTOMATICALLY ISSUE
23 PERMITS FOR ANY PERMIT ISSUED UNDER THIS ARTICLE 115 RELATED TO
24 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATIONS.

25 (II) THE PLATFORM IMPLEMENTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION
26 (5)(a) SHALL BE USED FOR AT LEAST SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE
27 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO

1 THE BOARD THAT:

- 2 (A) WILL BE INSTALLED ON EXISTING RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS;
- 3 (B) HAVE A MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF TWO HUNDRED AMPERES
- 4 MAIN SERVICE DISCONNECT; AND
- 5 (C) PROVIDE ELECTRICAL POWER TO A SINGLE-FAMILY OR
- 6 TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.

7 (III) THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM
8 SHALL ALSO BE UTILIZED TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL
9 SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATIONS THAT UTILIZE A HOME BATTERY STORAGE
10 SYSTEM, A MAIN PANEL UPGRADE, OR A MAIN BREAKER DERATE IN
11 CONJUNCTION WITH THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION.

12 (b) (I) THE BOARD SHALL NOT REQUIRE MANUAL REVIEW OF AN
13 APPLICATION FOR A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION ON AN
14 EXISTING RESIDENCE AT ANY TIME DURING THE PERMITTING PROCESS IF
15 THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL
16 SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM.

17 (II) THE BOARD MAY CONDUCT A MANUAL REVIEW OF
18 CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS RELATED TO A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL
19 INSTALLATION WHEN CONDUCTING AN INSPECTION OF THE RESIDENTIAL
20 SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION.

21 (c) **Reporting - rules.** (I) THE BOARD SHALL NOTIFY THE OFFICE
22 WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE BOARD ADOPTS THE RULES REQUIRED BY
23 SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS SECTION. THE NOTICE PROVIDED TO THE OFFICE
24 MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- 25 (A) AN ATTESTATION THAT THE RULES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD TO
- 26 IMPLEMENT THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM
- 27 COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS SECTION;

1 AND

2 (B) THE NAMES OR TYPES OF SOFTWARE OF THE AUTOMATED
3 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM USED BY THE BOARD.

4 (II) THE BOARD SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE OFFICE
5 THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

6 (A) THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION
7 PERMITS ISSUED USING THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING
8 PLATFORM;

9 (B) THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION
10 PERMITS ISSUED BY THE BOARD THAT DID NOT USE THE AUTOMATED
11 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM AND ANY RELEVANT
12 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATIONS
13 THAT REQUIRED MANUAL REVIEW FOR THE PERMITS;

14 (C) THE NAMES OR TYPES OF SOFTWARE OF THE AUTOMATED
15 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM USED BY THE BOARD IF THE
16 BOARD HAS CHANGED THE NAMES OR TYPES OF SOFTWARE USED BY THE
17 BOARD WITHIN THE PREVIOUS YEAR; AND

18 (D) A PLAN TO INCREASE THE USAGE OF THE AUTOMATED
19 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM IF LESS THAN SEVENTY-FIVE
20 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION PERMITS
21 ISSUED BY THE BOARD WERE ISSUED THROUGH THE PLATFORM.

22 (III) FOR THE REPORTING REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (5)(c)(I) AND
23 (5)(c)(II) OF THIS SECTION, THE OFFICE SHALL:

24 (A) CREATE A FORM TO BE USED BY THE BOARD TO SUBMIT THE
25 INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (5)(c)(I) OF THIS SECTION;

26 (B) CREATE A FORM TO BE USED BY THE BOARD TO SUBMIT THE
27 INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (5)(c)(II) OF THIS SECTION; AND

1 (C) ESTABLISH, BY RULE, A DATE EACH YEAR BY WHICH THE
2 BOARD SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (5)(c)(II) OF
3 THIS SECTION.

4 (IV) THIS SUBSECTION (5)(c) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER
5 1, 2032.

6 (d) **Rules - inspections.** (I) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE
7 BOARD SHALL ADOPT RULES TO PERMIT REMOTE INSPECTIONS VIA
8 RECORDED VIDEO OR PHOTOGRAPHY OF RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL
9 INSTALLATIONS THAT HAVE RECEIVED A PERMIT OR PERMIT REVISION
10 THROUGH THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM.
11 THE REMOTE INSPECTIONS MUST BE OFFERED AT NO GREATER COST TO THE
12 PERMIT HOLDER AND MADE AVAILABLE WITH NO GREATER DELAY THAN AN
13 IN-PERSON INSPECTION.

14 (II) THE BOARD SHALL NOT REQUIRE MORE THAN ONE INSPECTION
15 FOR A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION THAT IS PERMITTED BY
16 THE AUTOMATED SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM UNLESS THE RESIDENTIAL
17 SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION FAILED AN INITIAL INSPECTION.

18 (e) **Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (5), UNLESS THE
19 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

20 (I) "AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM" OR
21 "PLATFORM" MEANS SOFTWARE, OR A COMBINATION OF SOFTWARE, THAT:

22 (A) ACCEPTS AND AUTOMATES THE REVIEW OF AN APPLICATION
23 FOR A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION;

24 (B) ACCEPTS PAYMENT OF ANY APPLICABLE PERMITTING FEES AS
25 DETERMINED BY THE BOARD; AND

26 (C) AUTOMATICALLY ISSUES A PERMIT OR PERMIT REVISION FOR
27 A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION ONCE AN INDIVIDUAL HAS

1 SUBMITTED APPROVED PLANS AND PAYS ANY APPLICABLE PERMITTING
2 FEES RELATED TO THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION.

3 (II) "OFFICE" MEANS THE COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE CREATED IN
4 SECTION 24-38.5-101.

5 (III) "PERMIT" MEANS AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT ISSUED UNDER THIS
6 ARTICLE 115.

7 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-115-120, **add** (12)
8 as follows:

9 **12-115-120. Inspection - electrical permits - application -**
10 **standard - definition.** (12) IF AN INSPECTION IS REQUIRED TO ISSUE A
11 PERMIT FOR A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION UNDER THIS
12 ARTICLE 115, THE INSPECTION MUST BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
13 SECTION 12-115-107 (5)(d).

14 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-38.5-119, **add**
15 (6)(c) as follows:

16 **24-38.5-119. Streamlined solar permitting and inspection**
17 **grant program - creation - eligibility - fund created - gifts, grants, or**
18 **donations - reporting - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal.**

19 (6) (c) (I) IN ADDITION TO THE REPORTING REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION
20 (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE OFFICE SHALL PREPARE A REPORT THAT
21 ANALYZES THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF REQUIRING MUNICIPALITIES,
22 COUNTIES, AND APPROPRIATE STATE AGENCIES TO ADOPT ORDINANCES,
23 RESOLUTIONS, OR RULES RELATED TO THE AUTOMATION OF PERMITTING
24 FOR RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS.

25 (II) THE ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS CONSIDERED BY THE REPORT
26 MAY INCLUDE:

27 (A) ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS AND

1 INFRASTRUCTURE;
2 (B) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS;
3 (C) HEAT PUMP WATER HEATERS;
4 (D) HEAT PUMP SPACE HEATERS; AND
5 (E) ANY OTHER RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT AS
6 DETERMINED BY THE OFFICE.

7 (III) THE REPORT MUST EVALUATE RESOURCES, TECHNOLOGY, AND
8 SOFTWARE THAT IS AVAILABLE OR COULD BECOME AVAILABLE TO
9 AUTOMATE PERMITTING FOR RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS.

10 (IV) THE OFFICE SHALL INCLUDE ANY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
11 RELATED TO AUTOMATING OR STREAMLINING PERMITTING FOR
12 RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS IN THE REPORT.

13 (V) THE OFFICE SHALL PREPARE AND SUBMIT THE REPORT TO THE
14 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE,
15 THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY COMMITTEE, AND THE JOINT
16 BUDGET COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, BY JULY 1, 2026.

17 (VI) THIS SUBSECTION (6)(c) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
18 2028.

19 **SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
20 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
21 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
22 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
23 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
24 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
25 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
26 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
27 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.