

**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, 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 THAT:

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

14 (II) THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM
15 SHALL ALSO BE UTILIZED TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL
16 SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATIONS THAT UTILIZE A HOME BATTERY STORAGE
17 SYSTEM, A MAIN PANEL UPGRADE, OR A MAIN BREAKER DERATE IN
18 CONJUNCTION WITH THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION.

19 (b) (I) A COUNTY THAT IS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT AN
20 AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM PURSUANT TO
21 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT REQUIRE MANUAL REVIEW
22 OF AN APPLICATION FOR A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION ■ ■
23 AT ANY TIME DURING THE PERMITTING PROCESS IF THE APPLICATION HAS
24 BEEN APPROVED BY THE PLATFORM.

25 (II) SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS
26 SECTION, COUNTY STAFF MAY CONDUCT A MANUAL REVIEW OF A
27 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION APPLICATION THAT REQUIRES

1 **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.**

2 **(III)** 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 DOES NOT REQUIRE A PERMIT FOR A
7 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION IS EXEMPT FROM THE
8 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

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

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

22 **(II)** THE NAMES OR TYPES OF SOFTWARE OF THE AUTOMATED
23 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM USED BY THE COUNTY.

24 **(b)** A BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THAT IS REQUIRED TO
25 ADOPT AN ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION TO IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATED
26 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
27 **(2)(a)(I)** OF THIS SECTION SHALL DIRECT THE COUNTY OFFICE RESPONSIBLE

1 FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PLATFORM TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
2 OFFICE. THE ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE MUST BE
3 SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE BY APRIL 1 OF EACH YEAR AND MUST INCLUDE
4 THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

5 (I) THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION
6 PERMITS ISSUED USING THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING
7 PLATFORM FROM THE PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR;

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

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

18 (IV) 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 COUNTY WERE ISSUED THROUGH THE PLATFORM.

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

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

26 (B) CREATE A FORM TO BE USED BY COUNTY STAFF TO SUBMIT THE
27 INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

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

(A) DETERMINE IF THE REPORTS ARE ACCURATE;

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

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

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

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

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

(5) **Funding.** A COUNTY THAT IS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT AN

1 AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM PURSUANT TO
2 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION MAY APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE
3 STREAMLINED SOLAR PERMITTING AND INSPECTION GRANT PROGRAM IN
4 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-38.5-119.

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

7 **31-23-317. Automated residential solar permitting - municipal**
8 **requirements - reporting - definitions - repeal. (1) Definitions.** AS
9 USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

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

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

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

17 (III) ACCEPTS PAYMENT OF ANY APPLICABLE MUNICIPAL
18 PERMITTING FEES; AND

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

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

26 (c) "PERMIT" MEANS A PERMIT ISSUED BY A MUNICIPALITY THAT
27 IS REQUIRED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS ON A RESIDENTIAL

1 PROPERTY AND MAY INCLUDE AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT, CONSTRUCTION
2 PERMIT, OR OTHER TYPE OF PERMIT.

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

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

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

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

21 (b) (I) A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT AN
22 AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM PURSUANT TO
23 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT REQUIRE MANUAL REVIEW
24 OF AN APPLICATION FOR A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION ■ ■
25 AT ANY TIME DURING THE PERMITTING PROCESS IF THE APPLICATION HAS
26 BEEN APPROVED BY THE PLATFORM.

27 (II) SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS

1 SECTION, MUNICIPAL STAFF MAY CONDUCT A MANUAL REVIEW OF A
2 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION APPLICATION THAT REQUIRES
3 SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.

4 (III) MUNICIPAL STAFF MAY CONDUCT A MANUAL REVIEW OF
5 CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS RELATED TO A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL
6 INSTALLATION WHEN CONDUCTING AN INSPECTION OF THE RESIDENTIAL
7 SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION.

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

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

20 (I) AN ATTESTATION THAT THE ORDINANCE ADOPTED BY THE
21 GOVERNING BODY OF THE MUNICIPALITY TO IMPLEMENT THE AUTOMATED
22 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM COMPLIES WITH THE
23 REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION; AND

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

26 (b) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS REQUIRED
27 TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL

1 SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I) OF THIS
2 SECTION SHALL DIRECT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR
3 IMPLEMENTING THE PLATFORM TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
4 OFFICE. THE ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE MUST BE
5 SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE BY APRIL 1 OF EACH YEAR AND 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 FROM THE PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR;

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

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

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

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

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

1 (B) CREATE A FORM TO BE USED BY MUNICIPAL STAFF TO SUBMIT
2 THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

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

7 (A) DETERMINE IF THE REPORTS ARE ACCURATE;

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

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

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

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

25 (b) A MUNICIPALITY SHALL NOT REQUIRE MORE THAN ONE
26 INSPECTION FOR A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION THAT IS
27 PERMITTED BY THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING

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

3 (5) **Funding.** A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT
4 AN 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 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-115-107, **add** (5)
9 as follows:

10 **12-115-107. Board powers and duties - electrical permit for**
11 **residential solar panel installations - rules - definitions - repeal.**

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

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

18 (II) THE PLATFORM IMPLEMENTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION
19 (5)(a) SHALL BE USED FOR AT LEAST SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE
20 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO
21 THE BOARD THAT:

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

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

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

27 (III) THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM

1 SHALL ALSO BE UTILIZED TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL
2 SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATIONS THAT UTILIZE A HOME BATTERY STORAGE
3 SYSTEM, A MAIN PANEL UPGRADE, OR A MAIN BREAKER DERATE IN
4 CONJUNCTION WITH THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION.

5 (b) (I) THE BOARD SHALL NOT REQUIRE MANUAL REVIEW OF AN
6 APPLICATION FOR A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION ON AN
7 EXISTING RESIDENCE AT ANY TIME DURING THE PERMITTING PROCESS IF
8 THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL
9 SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM.

10 (II) THE BOARD MAY CONDUCT A MANUAL REVIEW OF
11 CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS RELATED TO A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL
12 INSTALLATION WHEN CONDUCTING AN INSPECTION OF THE RESIDENTIAL
13 SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION.

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

18 (A) AN ATTESTATION THAT THE RULES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD TO
19 IMPLEMENT THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM
20 COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS SECTION;
21 AND

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

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

26 (A) THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION
27 PERMITS ISSUED USING THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING

1 PLATFORM;

2 (B) THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION
3 PERMITS ISSUED BY THE BOARD THAT DID NOT USE THE AUTOMATED
4 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM AND ANY RELEVANT
5 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATIONS
6 THAT REQUIRED MANUAL REVIEW FOR THE PERMITS;

7 (C) THE NAMES OR TYPES OF SOFTWARE OF THE AUTOMATED
8 RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM USED BY THE BOARD IF THE
9 BOARD HAS CHANGED THE NAMES OR TYPES OF SOFTWARE USED BY THE
10 BOARD WITHIN THE PREVIOUS YEAR; AND

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

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

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

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

21 (C) ESTABLISH A DATE EACH YEAR BY WHICH THE BOARD SHALL
22 SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (5)(c)(II) OF THIS SECTION.

23 (IV) THIS SUBSECTION (5)(c) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER
24 1, 2032.

25 (d) **Rules - inspections.** (I) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE
26 BOARD SHALL ADOPT RULES TO PERMIT REMOTE INSPECTIONS VIA
27 RECORDED VIDEO OR PHOTOGRAPHY OF RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL

1 INSTALLATIONS THAT HAVE RECEIVED A PERMIT OR PERMIT REVISION
2 THROUGH THE AUTOMATED RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PERMITTING PLATFORM.
3 THE REMOTE INSPECTIONS MUST BE OFFERED AT NO GREATER COST TO THE
4 PERMIT HOLDER AND MADE AVAILABLE WITH NO GREATER DELAY THAN AN
5 IN-PERSON INSPECTION.

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

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

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

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

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

18 (C) AUTOMATICALLY ISSUES A PERMIT OR PERMIT REVISION FOR
19 A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION ONCE AN INDIVIDUAL HAS
20 SUBMITTED APPROVED PLANS AND PAYS ANY APPLICABLE PERMITTING
21 FEES RELATED TO THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION.

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

24 (III) "PERMIT" MEANS AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT ISSUED UNDER THIS
25 ARTICLE 115.

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

1 **12-115-120. Inspection - electrical permits - application -**
2 **standard - definition.** (12) IF AN INSPECTION IS REQUIRED TO ISSUE A
3 PERMIT FOR A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION UNDER THIS
4 ARTICLE 115, THE INSPECTION MUST BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
5 SECTION 12-115-107 (5)(d).

6 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-38.5-119, **amend**
7 **(3)(b), (3)(c), and (4) as follows:**

8 **24-38.5-119. Streamlined solar permitting and inspection**
9 **grant program - creation - eligibility - fund created - gifts, grants, or**
10 **donations - reporting - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal.**

11 (3) The grant program is created to allow an authority having
12 jurisdiction to apply to the office for a grant to help provide
13 implementation support to the authority having jurisdiction for
14 implementation of automated permitting software. In administering the
15 grant program, the office shall:

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

23 (c) Not award money to an authority having jurisdiction for
24 expected costs associated with software other than automated permitting
25 software, activities occurring before being awarded grant program money,
26 ~~or more than one hundred eighty days after receiving grant program~~
27 ~~money,~~ food and beverage costs, fines, penalties, advertising, or permit

1 processing fees including fees charged by the operator of automated
2 permitting software;

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

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

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