



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB3074

Introduced 2/17/2023, by Rep. Daniel Didech

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 605/605-1110 new

Amends the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that it is the policy of the State to promote and encourage the installation of distributed energy resources, such as distributed generation technology and advanced energy storage, and to limit obstacles to their use. Establishes that within 180 days of the effective date of the amendatory Act, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall create and administer a grant program facilitating the implementation of an online permitting process for residential photovoltaic solar energy systems for the purpose of modernizing and reducing the cost and time to obtain building permits for distributed generation. Provides that jurisdictions requiring permits for such systems may apply for a grant of up to \$20,000 from the Department. Requires the Department to allocate a minimum of \$1,000,000 in eligible funds to provide grants under the program. Requires the Department to disclose in a report on its website each jurisdiction which received a grant, the amount of each grant, the anticipated implementation date of the recipient jurisdiction's automated permitting platform, and other relevant information.

LRB103 30667 MXP 57128 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Commerce and Economic
5 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois
6 is amended by adding Section 605-1110 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-1110 new)

8 Sec. 605-1110. Small Solar Online Permitting Grant
9 Program.

10 (a) The General Assembly finds and declares all of the
11 following:

12 (1) It is the policy of the State to promote and
13 encourage the installation of distributed energy
14 resources, such as distributed generation technology and
15 advanced energy storage, and to limit obstacles to their
16 use.

17 (2) Onsite solar energy and onsite energy storage are
18 leading renewable distributed energy resource technologies
19 that will help this State reach its energy and
20 environmental goals, as well as provide essential
21 resiliency benefits at times of high energy demand and in
22 the event of grid outages.

23 (3) Implementation of consistent statewide standards

1 to achieve the timely and cost-effective installation of
2 solar energy systems as well as energy storage systems is
3 not a municipal affair but is instead a matter of
4 statewide concern. The permitting processes governing the
5 installation of onsite solar energy systems and energy
6 storage systems vary widely across jurisdictions and,
7 contrary to the intent of the law, are both obstacles to
8 the State's clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction
9 goals and burdensome costs to homeowners, businesses,
10 schools, and public agencies.

11 (4) The United States Department of Energy, through
12 its SunShot Initiative, has distributed millions of
13 dollars in grants to local and state governments,
14 including a number of State jurisdictions, to reduce the
15 costs of rooftop solar through automated and standardized
16 permitting.

17 (5) A modernized, automated, and standardized
18 permitting process for installations of small-scale solar
19 technology on residential rooftops, energy storage
20 technology in residences, and associated distributed
21 energy resource technology in residences will lower
22 administrative costs for and time spent by municipalities
23 throughout the State, while maintaining safety standards.

24 (6) A modernized, automated, and standardized
25 permitting process for installations of small-scale solar
26 technology on residential rooftops, energy storage

1 technology in residences, and associated distributed
2 energy resource technology in residences will lower costs
3 of the deployment of solar and battery solutions, help to
4 expand access to lower-income households, provide solar
5 customers greater installation ease, improve the State's
6 ability to reach its clean energy goals, expand grid
7 resiliency solutions, and generate much needed jobs in the
8 State, all while maintaining safety standards.

9 (7) A modernized, automated, and standardized
10 permitting process for installations of small-scale solar
11 technology on residential rooftops, energy storage
12 technology in residences, and associated distributed
13 energy resource technology will increase efficiencies in
14 local government, reducing costs and time requirements for
15 local jurisdiction staff.

16 (b) For the purposes of this Section:

17 "Economically disadvantaged community" means areas of one
18 or more census tracts where the average household income does
19 not exceed 80% of the area median income.

20 "Energy storage system" means commercially available
21 technology that is capable of absorbing energy and storing it
22 for a period of time for use at a later time, including, but
23 not limited to, electrochemical, thermal, and
24 electromechanical technologies, and may be interconnected
25 behind the customer's meter or interconnected behind its own
26 meter.

1 "Jurisdiction" means any unit of local government
2 providing building or electrical permits to small photovoltaic
3 solar energy systems.

4 "Photovoltaic solar energy system" means a solar collector
5 or other solar energy device the primary purpose of which is to
6 provide for the collection, storage, or distribution of
7 electricity created from sunlight.

8 "Small residential photovoltaic solar energy system" means
9 a photovoltaic solar energy system with an installed direct
10 current capacity no greater than 25 kilowatts.

11 "SolarAPP+" means the most recent version of a web-based
12 portal, developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory,
13 United States Department of Energy, that automates plan
14 review, produces code-compliant approvals, and issues permits
15 instantaneously for small residential photovoltaic solar
16 energy systems and energy storage systems.

17 (c) Within 180 days of the effective date of this
18 amendatory Act of the 103rd General Assembly, the Department
19 shall create and administer a grant program facilitating the
20 implementation of an automated online permitting process for
21 residential photovoltaic solar energy systems for the purpose
22 of modernizing and reducing the cost and time to obtain
23 building permits for distributed generation. Jurisdictions
24 requiring permits for such systems may apply for a grant of up
25 to \$20,000 from the Department. A jurisdiction that accepts a
26 grant shall implement an online, automated permitting

1 platform, such as, but not limited to, SolarAPP+, that
2 verifies code compliance and issues valid and usable permits
3 in real time for eligible technologies. Online platforms shall
4 include an inspection checklist and be consistent with the
5 system parameters and configurations of SolarAPP+. As needed,
6 a jurisdiction may amend its ordinance to authorize a small
7 solar energy system, an energy storage system, or other
8 eligible technology to use the online, automated permitting
9 platform, as well as update its code as pertains to such
10 technologies to the most recent version of the National
11 Electrical Code, International Building Code, and
12 International Residential Code available at that time.

13 A jurisdiction that accepts a grant shall ensure its
14 online permitting platform includes:

15 (1) a clear description of all information required to
16 obtain a permit;

17 (2) the electrical, building, and residential code
18 year governing the jurisdiction's permitting requirements
19 for small residential photovoltaic solar energy systems
20 and energy storage systems; and

21 (3) the means to electronically pay for all permits
22 for solar photovoltaic solar energy systems and energy
23 storage systems.

24 (d) Nothing in this Section prohibits a jurisdiction that
25 accepts a grant from using grant funds to modernize its
26 permitting system for other items within that jurisdiction, so

1 long as the core goals described in this Section are achieved.

2 (e) In establishing the grant program, the Department
3 shall expedite processing grant applications from local
4 jurisdictions serving environmental justice communities as
5 defined by the Illinois Power Agency under the Illinois Power
6 Agency Act and economically disadvantaged communities.

7 (f) The Department shall allocate a minimum of \$1,000,000
8 in eligible funds received under the federal Inflation
9 Reduction Act, federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,
10 or other funding sources to provide grants under the program.

11 (g) Each quarter, the Department shall disclose through a
12 report available on its website each jurisdiction which
13 received a grant, the amount of each grant, the anticipated
14 implementation date of the recipient jurisdiction's automated
15 permitting platform, and other information deemed relevant by
16 the Department. The Department shall also maintain on its
17 website a list of jurisdictions utilizing an online automated
18 permitting platform.