

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bailey, Bentz, Boone, Krieger, Thompson, Witt, Cannon, Gilliam
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Liz Puskar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/15, 4/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes as outright permitted use installation and use of solar thermal energy systems on residential and commercial buildings. Establishes as outright permitted use on residential buildings photovoltaic energy system that is residential qualifying system and on commercial buildings photovoltaic energy system that is small commercial qualifying system. For residential or commercial structure not federally or locally designated historic building, not located in federally or locally designated historic district, and not located within boundaries of locally established conservation district and having proposed installation of solar panels oriented toward roadway of primary access: (1) classifies approval of permit application for solar energy system as ministerial function if installation of solar energy system does not increase footprint or roof height of residential structure and if solar energy system panels are mounted in specified manner; and (2) prohibits cities and counties from collecting land use permit application fees or requiring extension surveys or site evaluations in connection with solar energy system permit application.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Ability of homeowners in conservation districts to install solar energy systems
- Value of preserving historic homes
- Review of solar installation applications under zoning regulations as opposed to land use regulations

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND: Solar power is the conversion of sunlight into electricity, either directly using photovoltaics, or indirectly using concentrated solar power. Concentrated solar power systems use lenses or mirrors and tracking systems to focus a large area of sunlight into a small beam. Photovoltaics converts light into electric current using the photoelectric effect. House Bill 3516 A would establish as allowable, under zoning regulations, the installation of certain solar energy systems on residential and commercial structures.