

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass with amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure. (Printed B-Engrossed)

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Hass, Olsen, Prozanski, Thomsen, Dingfelder

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/12, 5/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes installation and use of solar photovoltaic energy system or solar thermal energy system on residential or commercial building is outright permitted use in any zone where such structures are allowed use. Establishes approval of permit is ministerial function if installation can be accomplished without increasing footprint of structure or peak roof height and plane of system is parallel to slope of roof. Prohibits cities and counties from collecting land use permit application fees or requiring extensive surveys or site evaluations in connection with such solar energy system permit applications. Exempts from provisions related to ministerial function and application fees, surveys and evaluations those systems located on residential or commercial structure that is federally or locally designated historic building, landmark or conservation landmark; located in historic district; or located in area designated as significant scenic resource unless material used is designated anti-reflective or 11 percent or less reflective.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Permitting process for solar systems can sometimes be difficult and costly
- Specific requirements of bill and whether new technologies will conform

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 B would establish as allowable, under zoning regulations, the installation of certain solar energy systems on residential and commercial structures.