

2017 -- H 5575

LC001352

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- STATEWIDE MUNICIPAL SOLAR PERMIT

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Regunberg, Ruggiero, and Donovan

Date Introduced: February 16, 2017

Referred To: House Municipal Government

(Dept. of Administration)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 45 of the General Laws entitled "TOWNS AND CITIES" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 67

4 STATEWIDE MUNICIPAL SOLAR PERMIT

5 **45-67-1. Legislative purpose.**

6 The purpose of this chapter is to provide a predictable and universal process for obtaining  
7 a single permit that encompasses both building and electric permits for solar photovoltaic systems  
8 with municipalities.

9 **45-67-2. Definitions.**

10 When used in this chapter, these terms shall have the following meaning:

11 (1) "Commission" means the Rhode Island state building code commission;

12 (2) "Office" means the Rhode Island office of energy resources;

13 (3) "Solar energy permit" means a standard application used by municipalities that covers  
14 both the building and electrical permit aspects of a solar photovoltaic system installation.

15 **45-67-3. Renewable energy permit.**

16 (a) The office, in consultation with the commission, shall promulgate and adopt rules and  
17 regulations that will create a statewide solar photovoltaic permit application that municipalities  
18 will be required to use beginning on January 1, 2018. The office's rules and regulations shall be  
19 adopted no later than November 1, 2017.

1           (b) The office shall establish an advisory group for the purpose of creating a statewide  
2 solar energy permit application form.

3           (c) The advisory group shall include the following members and may be expanded by the  
4 office in its discretion, to include other personnel with experience and/or expertise in the area of  
5 solar energy:

6           (1) A renewable energy developer with expertise in residential solar photovoltaic  
7 installation;

8           (2) A renewable energy developer with expertise in commercial solar photovoltaic  
9 installations; and

10          (3) Three (3) municipal officials with expertise in building and electric permitting  
11 processes.

12          SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would require the Rhode Island office of energy resources, in consultation with  
2 the building commission to promulgate rules and regulations to create a statewide solar  
3 photovoltaic permit application. It would also create an advisory group to create a statewide solar  
4 energy permit application.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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