

MEMORANDUM

TO: County Council

FROM: *AM* Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney *A. Mihill*
Michael Faden, Senior Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: **Introduction:** Bill 10-14, Buildings – Solar Permits – Expedited Review

Bill 10-14, Buildings – Solar Permits – Expedited Review, sponsored by Councilmembers Berliner, Floreen, and Riemer, Council Vice President Leventhal, Council President Rice, and Councilmembers Elrich and Andrews, is scheduled to be introduced on January 21, 2014. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for February 11, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Bill 10-14 would require the Department of Permitting Services to implement an expedited review process for permits to install rooftop solar photovoltaic systems and require the Department to charge reduced fees for those permits.

Councilmember Berliner explained the purpose of this Bill in his January 14 memorandum describing his proposed energy/environmental package. See ©20 of Bill 2-14, Agenda Item 4A.

This packet contains:

Bill 10-14

Legislative Request Report

Circle #

1

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Bill No. 10-14
Concerning: Buildings – Solar Permits – Expedited Review
Revised: 12/9/2013 Draft No. 1
Introduced: January 21, 2014
Expires: July 21, 2015
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: None
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Councilmembers Berliner, Floreen, and Riemer, Council Vice President Leventhal, Council President Rice, and Councilmembers Elrich and Andrews

AN ACT to:

- (1) require the Department of Permitting Services to implement an expedited review process for permits to install rooftop solar photovoltaic systems;
- (2) require the Department to charge reduced fees for permits to install rooftop solar photovoltaic systems; and
- (2) generally amend County law regarding building permits.

By adding

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 8, Buildings
Section 8-24C

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

1 **Sec. 1. Section 8-24C is added as follows:**

2 **8-24C. Expedited review process for a solar photovoltaic system.**

3 The Department must adopt an expedited review process for each permit to
4 install a rooftop solar photovoltaic system. The application fee for each permit to
5 install a rooftop solar photovoltaic system must not exceed half the amount the
6 Department charges for a similar permit.

7 *Approved:*

8
9
10 _____
11 Craig L. Rice, President, County Council

Date

12 *Approved:*

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14 _____
15 Isiah Leggett, County Executive

Date

16 *This is a correct copy of Council action.*

17
18 _____
19 Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council

Date

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Bill 10-14

Buildings – Solar Permits – Expedited Review

DESCRIPTION: Would require the Department of Permitting Services to implement an expedited review process for permits to install rooftop solar photovoltaic systems, and to charge reduced fees for those permits.

PROBLEM: Permitting times and costs may discourage some residents from applying for permits to install certain renewable energy devices, including solar photovoltaic systems.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: To encourage residents to increase the use of solar photovoltaic systems.

COORDINATION: Department of Permitting Services

FISCAL IMPACT: To be requested.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: To be requested.

EVALUATION: To be requested.

EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE: To be researched.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: Amanda Mihill, 240-777-7815

APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES: To be researched.

PENALTIES: N/A