



# Fiscal Note

## Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

### SB 26-082: LOCAL GOVT RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT FEE

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**Prime Sponsors:**

Sen. Pelton B.

**Fiscal Analyst:**

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**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note

**Date:** February 18, 2026

**Fiscal note status:** This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

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### Summary Information

**Overview.** The bill specifies a local government’s authority to approve land use applications for renewable energy projects, including the authorization of application and success fees.

**Types of impacts.** The bill is projected to affect the following areas on a continuous basis:

- Minimal State Workload
- Local Government

**Appropriations.** No appropriation is required.

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**Table 1  
State Fiscal Impacts**

| Type of Impact          | Budget Year<br>FY 2026-27 | Out Year<br>FY 2027-28 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| State Revenue           | \$0                       | \$0                    |
| State Expenditures      | \$0                       | \$0                    |
| Transferred Funds       | \$0                       | \$0                    |
| Change in TABOR Refunds | \$0                       | \$0                    |
| Change in State FTE     | 0.0 FTE                   | 0.0 FTE                |

## Summary of Legislation

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Current law allows local governments to approve land use applications for renewable energy projects. The bill specifies that local governments retain control over the specifics of the application process. The bill authorizes local governments to develop an electronic application for both a standard permit process and an expedited permit process. The bill also allows a local government to collect fees on applications and success fees on approved projects.

If a facility owner requests an expedited permit application process, the local government must hire a nongovernmental contractor to provide technical assistance in the application review, to be paid by the applicant. The bill establishes other requirements for permitting and application systems developed by local governments. Local governments may impose an additional application and success fee for expedited applications, but must approve or deny a project within a certain number of days, or return proportional amounts of the fee back to the applicant.

## Background

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[Senate Bill 24-212](#) authorized local and tribal governments to approve applications of land use for renewable energy projects. Local or tribal governments may request support from the Energy and Carbon Management Commission (commission) in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) about the development of local codes for renewable energy projects or the review of proposed projects. The commission received 1.0 FTE for this work through SB 24-212.

## State Expenditures

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State workload in the DNR will minimally increase if local governments adopt an expedited application process or review more applications on an expedited timeline, and elect to request support from the commission. If local governments hire a contractor to support reviews of expedited applications in lieu of requesting support from the commission, workload may minimally decrease. These impacts are expected to be offsetting and result in minimal changes to overall DNR workload.

## Local Government

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The bill may increase administrative costs for local governments that elect to develop an electronic application, a standard application process, and an expedited permit application process for renewable energy projects. Costs are anticipated to be offset by revenue to local governments that elect to impose an application fee and/or success fee.

## **Effective Date**

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The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

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Counties

Municipalities

Local Affairs

Natural Resources

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The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).