



60     *platform for a period not to exceed six months. Any locality that implements an alternative platform shall*  
61     *submit an annual compliance report no later than March 1 of each year to the Department containing*  
62     *sufficient information for the Department to determine whether the locality's alternative platform is*  
63     *equivalent to the Department's Platform. Such report shall be submitted by the locality in accordance with*  
64     *any guidelines and forms developed by the Department. The Department shall make such report publicly*  
65     *available on its website.*

66     *If the Department finds that a locality does not have an alternative platform or determines that a locality's*  
67     *alternative platform is not equivalent to the Department's Platform, the Department shall notify the chief*  
68     *administrative officer of the locality of such failure. The Department shall publish on its website a list*  
69     *identifying localities that have been issued a notification. A contractor may use the Department's Platform in*  
70     *a locality that allows for the submission of residential solar energy system applications through an*  
71     *alternative platform if the locality is on such list, or if the locality does not have an alternative platform.*

72     *E. To defray the cost of developing and administering the Platform, the Department may place a*  
73     *surcharge on residential solar permitting fees collected by a locality.*

74     *F. Nothing in this section shall be construed to (i) limit the authority of localities to issue permits for*  
75     *residential solar energy systems or (ii) limit or otherwise affect the interconnection requirements and*  
76     *approval process established by the State Corporation Commission for an electrical utility pursuant to*  
77     *§§ 56-578 and 56-594.*

78     **2. That the Department of Energy shall establish, launch, and administer the Commonwealth Smart**  
79     **Solar Permitting Platform pursuant to § 45.2-1735 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, by**  
80     **July 1, 2027.**