

Energy anticipates that the workload to administer the program will be equivalent to 1.5 full time employees, with an annual cost of \$225,000. Energy also anticipates \$40,000 annually in legal expenses related to

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potential disputes with localities or contractors. Additionally, Energy anticipates the need for \$400,000 in contract support to onboard and coordinate with localities to establish the program over the first two years.

According to Energy, multiple third-party platforms that satisfy the requirements of the bill are commercially available, including at least one that would be available at no cost to the state. It is anticipated that the cost for the Commonwealth to develop and maintain a platform, if necessary, would be at least \$466,000 in the first year and \$336,000 in ongoing years.

The bill directs Energy to convene a workgroup to determine whether it would be appropriate for operating costs to be offset, by a surcharge collected by localities that issue residential solar energy system permits. The bill does not provide specific authorization for Energy to establish such a surcharge. A report of the workgroup's findings is due to lawmakers by November 1, 2026.

Amendments to HB30, as passed by the House, included \$50,000 to support a workgroup to study the costs and implementation of such a Platform. Amendments to SB30, as passed by the Senate, included \$1 million in FY 2027 and \$425,000 in FY 2028 for the combined implementation of this bill and four others impacting Energy.

Other: This bill is the companion to SB 382.