

HOUSE No. 2164

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Thomas A. Golden, Jr.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to solar permitting.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Thomas A. Golden, Jr.</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 2164

By Mr. Golden of Lowell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2164) of Thomas A. Golden, Jr., that permit granting authorities allow for electronic submission of the permit applications and associated documentation for the installation of certain solar systems. Municipalities and Regional Government.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to solar permitting.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Title VII, Chapter 40 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following sections:

3 Section [X]. Real Time Approval for Solar and Energy Storage Permit Applications

4 (a) The Permit Granting Authority shall allow for electronic submission of the permit
5 application and associated documentation for the installation of a solar PV system, solar thermal
6 system, energy storage device, or a solar system combined with an energy storage device. The
7 Permit Granting Authority shall authorize electronic signature for the permit application and
8 other documentation in lieu of a wet signature by an applicant. Electronic submission shall be
9 offered through either an online portal available on the website of the Permit Granting Authority
10 or via electronic mail to a dedicated account that shall be capable of receiving permit
11 applications.

12 (b) Upon submission of required permit application documents and the required
13 permitting fee, the permit shall be deemed granted and the applicant may begin installation.

14 Section [X]. Solar and Energy Storage Inspections

15 (a) Applicant shall notify the Permit Granting Authority upon completion of system
16 installation. Permit Granting Authorities shall require no more than one inspection for a solar PV
17 system, solar thermal system, energy storage device, or the solar system combined with an
18 energy storage device in order for the system or device to receive a certificate of completion. The
19 Permit Granting Authority shall issue a certificate of completion no later than 10 business days
20 following the receipt of notice from the applicant that the system, device, or combined system
21 and device, is installed.

22 (b) An electric distribution company shall not require additional inspections by the
23 electric distribution company or any other entity as a precondition to granting the customer
24 permission to operate.