

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Carole A. Fiola***

*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 establishing a special commission to investigate double utility poles.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

[Pin Slip]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**

An Act establishing a special commission to investigate double utility poles.

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

1           SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a  
2 special commission to investigate and study the use of so-called double poles. The commission  
3 shall consider identifying how many double poles exist and the length of time each has been in  
4 place, the reason why such double poles have been in place for such time, and the process and  
5 timeline by which existing utility poles are removed following the transfer of attached services to  
6 a new pole. The commission shall also consider and may make recommendations on how best to  
7 enforce the provisions of Section 34B of Chapter 164 of the General Laws concerning the timely  
8 removal of double poles, investigate whether the current timeline for removing such poles is  
9 reasonable and adequate, investigate how to address barriers to remove such poles, investigate  
10 increasing utilization, improving functionality of attachment management systems (e.g., the  
11 National Joint Utilities Notification System (NJUNS), and identifying solutions to resolve  
12 communication issues among all parties, unlicensed attachments on utility poles and  
13 requirements that providers promptly register such attachments, the legal liability and potential  
14 use of indemnification agreements to facilitate the removal of abandoned attachments, whether

15 or not certain costs may be recovered from ratepayers, and the promulgation of regulations by  
16 the Department of Public Utilities and Department of Telecommunications and Cable to  
17 effectively regulate double utility poles.

18           The commission shall consist of 17 members: 1 of whom shall be the secretary of  
19 administration and finance, or the secretary's designee; 1 of whom shall be the chair of the  
20 department of public utilities, or the chair's designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of  
21 the department of telecommunications and cable, or the commissioner's designee; 1 of whom  
22 shall be a representative of a municipal light board of commissioners or their designee; the house  
23 and senate chairs of the joint committee on municipalities and regional government; 2 members  
24 of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; 2 members  
25 of the senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; 3 municipal officials selected  
26 by the governor, 1 utility pole owner; 1 utility pole attacher; the executive director of the  
27 Massachusetts Municipal Association or their designee; and 1 private citizen, appointed by the  
28 governor, who shall serve as chair of the commission and shall not be an employee of any  
29 electric or telecommunications utility operating in the commonwealth.

30           The commission shall file a report of its recommendations and proposed legislation, if  
31 any, with the clerks of the house and senate, the chairs of the house and senate committee on  
32 ways and means and the chairs of the joint committee on municipalities and regional government  
33 not later than June 30, 2026.