

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr. and Bruce E. Tarr

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 addressing energy costs, transparency, and sustainability.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>David K. Muradian, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Peter J. Durant</i>	<i>Worcester and Hampshire</i>	<i>1/14/2026</i>
<i>Kelly A. Dooner</i>	<i>Third Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>1/15/2026</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Justin Thurber</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Marcus S. Vaughn</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>John J. Marsi</i>	<i>6th Worcester</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Donald H. Wong</i>	<i>9th Essex</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>

<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Norman J. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida</i>	<i>7th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Michael J. Soter</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Kelly W. Pease</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Michael S. Chaisson</i>	<i>1st Bristol</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>Kenneth P. Sweezey</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/13/2026</i>
<i>John R. Gaskey</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>2/10/2026</i>

HOUSE No.

By Representative Jones of North Reading and Senator Tarr, a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., Bruce E. Tarr and others relative to energy costs, transparency, and sustainability. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act addressing energy costs, transparency, and sustainability.

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. Subsection (a) of section 19 of chapter 25 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended in lines 28 to 32 by striking out the
3 words “; provided, however, that when determining cost-effectiveness, the calculation of
4 program benefits shall include calculations of the social value of greenhouse gas emissions
5 reductions, except in the cases of conversions from fossil fuel heating and cooling to fossil fuel
6 heating and cooling”.

7 SECTION 2. Subsection (b) of section 19 of chapter 25 of the General Laws, as so
8 appearing, is hereby amended in lines 45 to 49 by striking out the words “provided, however,
9 that when determining cost-effectiveness, the calculation of program benefits shall include
10 calculations of the social value of greenhouse gas emissions reductions, except in the cases of
11 conversions from fossil fuel heating and cooling to fossil fuel heating and cooling”.

12 SECTION 3. Subsection (c) of section 19 of chapter 25 of the General Laws, as so
13 appearing, is hereby amended in lines 67 to 71 by striking out the words “; provided, however,
14 that when determining cost-effectiveness, the calculation of benefits shall include calculations of
15 the social value of greenhouse gas emissions reductions, except in the cases of conversions from
16 fossil fuel heating and cooling to fossil fuel heating and cooling”.

17 SECTION 4. Paragraph (2) of subsection (c) of section 21 of Chapter 25 of the General
18 Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following
19 sentence:- The department shall not approve a plan if the plan’s total costs are greater than the
20 total costs incurred for the 2022 to 2024 plan approved pursuant to this section, plus 6.25 per
21 cent.

22 SECTION 5. Chapter 25 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 official edition, is
23 hereby amended by inserting after section 22 the following section:

24 Section 22A.

25 (a) Program administrators of energy savings programs under the collaborative otherwise
26 known as “Mass Save,” including electric and gas distribution companies, shall submit a report,
27 no later than February 1 of each year, detailing the following:

28 (i) operational and administrative costs of implementing energy savings programs,
29 including but not limited to oversight, program management, and staffing;

30 (ii) consumer incentive costs to promote program participation;

31 (iii) total spending in residential programs administered, including a breakdown of
32 spending for each program by geographic region, income, race, and ethnicity;

33 (iv) spending for each commercial program administered, including by region;

34 (v) total costs of rebates, contractor payments, installation, and any other relevant
35 program implementation costs;

36 (vi) any other relevant costs deemed necessary by program administrators.

37 The report shall be submitted to the clerks of the house and senate and published on Mass
38 Save's website.

39 (b) For the purposes of this section, the term "administrative expenses" shall mean
40 overhead and labor costs in carrying out energy savings programs. Program administrators shall
41 not exceed 10 per cent of the amount of funds allocated to energy savings programs for
42 administrative expenses.

43 SECTION 6. Chapter 25 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition,
44 is hereby amended by adding the following sections:-

45 Section 24. The department of public utilities shall develop, implement, and maintain, a
46 comprehensive, public-facing dashboard to display information relative to the cost and supply of
47 energy for commercial and residential consumers in the commonwealth, provided that such
48 information shall include but not be limited to: (i) investor owned transmission and distribution
49 companies of electricity and natural gas, organized by region, (ii) current rates for natural gas
50 and electricity for each such company, (iii) a clear and easily digestible explanation of the
51 components of gas and electricity bills in the commonwealth, including regional variations, (iv)
52 the sources of gas and electricity being delivered by such companies, (v) the date of the most
53 recently approved rates for gas and electricity for each company, and (vi) a summary of the

54 proceedings by which those rates were approved, (vii) the duration of the currently approved
55 rates and any anticipated new rate case filings, (viii) any available incentives or discounts to
56 reduce the consumer cost of electricity and natural gas, (ix) average daily, monthly, and yearly
57 consumption of gas and electricity, and any other relevant information.

58 Section 25. There shall be a special commission to study and recommend reforms to
59 utility delivery fee structures, industry best practices, and cost-reduction measures for consumers
60 in the Commonwealth. The commission shall analyze the impact of delivery fees on ratepayers,
61 identify the primary cost drivers, and evaluate regulatory or market-based strategies to mitigate
62 excessive charges while ensuring reliable service. The commission shall assess the impact of
63 delivery fees on consumer costs, market competition, and energy affordability through a review
64 of historical rate structures, policy comparisons with other states, stakeholder input, and financial
65 modeling to identify potential reforms that could reduce costs while maintaining reliable service.
66 Additionally, the commission shall review the effectiveness of existing regulations governing
67 delivery fees, identify potential legislative or administrative adjustments to enhance pricing
68 transparency and efficiency, any and all options for reducing such costs in the short and long
69 terms, together with the impacts of such options on efforts to reduce carbon emissions pursuant
70 to current statutory and regulatory obligations, and the impacts of such options on employment
71 levels and the economy of the commonwealth. The commission shall consist of the house and
72 senate chairs of the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities, and energy, who shall serve
73 as co-chairs; the speaker of the house of representatives or a designee; the president of the senate
74 or a designee; the house minority leader or a designee; the senate minority leader or a designee;
75 the chair of the department of public utilities commission or their designee, the director of the
76 Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, 10 members appointed by the governor, three of whom

77 shall represent electric transmission and distribution companies of electricity in the
78 commonwealth, of which one shall represent municipal light plants in the commonwealth, two
79 of whom shall have expertise in energy policy and represent consumers in the commonwealth,
80 one of whom shall represent large employers in the commonwealth, one of whom shall represent
81 small employers in the commonwealth, one member representing the New England Power
82 Generators Association, and one member representing the Independent Systems Operator for
83 New England, one member representing environmental organizations in the commonwealth, and
84 one member appointed by the attorney general of the commonwealth with expertise in energy
85 policy. Administrative support for the operations of the commission shall be provided by the
86 department of public utilities. The commission shall submit a report detailing its findings and
87 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the house and senate committees on
88 ways and means, the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities, and energy, and the clerks
89 of the house of representatives and senate no later than twelve months after the passage of this
90 legislation.”

91 SECTION 7. Section 3 of said chapter 25A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
92 striking out the definition of “Qualified RPS resource” and inserting in place thereof the
93 following definition:-

94 “Qualified RPS resource”, a renewable energy generating source, as defined in
95 subsection (c) or subsection (d) of section 11F, that has: (i) installed a qualified energy storage
96 system at its facility; or (ii) commenced operation on or after January 1, 2019, provided,
97 however, that a qualified RPS resource that commenced operation prior to January 1, 2019 shall
98 be considered to have the commercial operation date of when the resource is co-located or
99 contractually paired with a qualified energy storage system that commenced operation after

100 January 1, 2019 and having a minimum nominal useful energy capacity of not less than 25 per
101 cent of the nameplate power rating of the qualified RPS resource for 4 hours.

102 SECTION 8. Subsection (f) of section 11F of chapter 25A, as appearing in the 2024
103 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sentences:-

104 Not less than fifty per cent of alternative compliance payments made pursuant to this
105 section shall be credited directly to electric ratepayers. The department of energy resources, in
106 consultation with the department of public utilities, shall establish by regulation a mechanism to
107 ensure that: (1) all such payments are returned to ratepayers in the service territory of the retail
108 electricity supplier or municipal aggregator that submitted the payment, on a per kilowatt-hour
109 basis or other equitable crediting method; and (2) the credits shall appear as bill reductions or
110 refunds to ratepayers within 90 days of the close of the compliance year in which the payment
111 was made. Any administrative costs associated with implementing this subsection shall be
112 minimized and may be deducted from such payments prior to their return to ratepayers, provided
113 that such deductions do not exceed reasonable expenses as approved by the department of public
114 utilities.

115 SECTION 9. Section 4A of Chapter 40 of the General Laws as appearing in the 2024
116 Official Edition is hereby amended by striking the word “and” in line 8.

117 SECTION 10. Said section 4A of said chapter 40 is hereby further amended by adding in
118 line 9 after the word “committee” the following words:- “, in a municipal light plant by the board
119 or commission;”

120 SECTION 11. Said section 4A of said chapter 40 is hereby further amended by striking in
121 line 28 the word “or” the first time it appears.

122 SECTION 12. Said section 4A of said chapter 40 is hereby further amended by striking
123 the words “chapter 6A” in line 29, and inserting in place there of the following words:- “chapter
124 6A, or a municipal light plant established under chapter 164 or by special law.”

125 SECTION 13. Section 6 of chapter 62 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024
126 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the definition of “Real estate tax payment” as
127 appearing in lines 391 through 410, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following:-

128 "Real estate tax payment", the real estate tax levied pursuant to chapter 59 on the
129 taxpayer's residence and actually paid by the taxpayer during the taxable year, including water
130 and sewer debt service charges assessed pursuant to subsection (n) of section 21C of chapter 59,
131 exclusive of special assessments and delinquent interest, and less any abatement granted. For
132 owners of residential property located in communities which have not exercised the option to
133 assess water or sewer debt service charges pursuant to subsection (n) of section 21C of chapter
134 59, the real estate tax payment to be considered for purposes of calculating this credit shall also
135 include 50 per cent of the owner's water and sewer charges actually paid in the taxable year for
136 which the credit is sought, as well as 50 per cent of the owner's home energy utility bills actually
137 paid in the taxable year for which the credit is sought. In the case of a multi-unit dwelling, a land
138 area in excess of one acre or a multi-purpose building or land area, the real estate tax payment,
139 including the water and sewer charges as applicable, shall constitute that portion of the real estate
140 tax levied and paid, and that portion of applicable water and sewer charges actually paid, on the
141 entire building or area, which corresponds to the portion of the area or building used and
142 occupied as the residence of the taxpayer, in accordance with procedures established by the
143 commissioner."

144 SECTION 14. Said section 6 of said chapter 62 is hereby further amended by striking the
145 definition of “Rent constituting real estate tax payment” as appearing in lines 411 through 414,
146 inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following:–

147 "Rent constituting real estate tax payment", 25 per cent of the rent actually paid by the
148 taxpayer, under a good faith rental agreement, for the right of occupancy of the residence during
149 the taxable year or a portion thereof, as well as 50 per cent of the home energy utility bills
150 actually paid by the taxpayer, under a good faith rental agreement, for the right of occupancy of
151 the residence during the taxable year or a portion thereof."

152 SECTION 15. Said section 6 of said chapter 62 is hereby further amended by inserting
153 after the definition of “Head of household” the following paragraph:–

154 "Real estate tax payment", the real estate tax levied pursuant to chapter 59 on the
155 taxpayer's residence and actually paid by the taxpayer during the taxable year, including water
156 and sewer debt service charges assessed pursuant to subsection (n) of section 21C of chapter 59,
157 exclusive of special assessments and delinquent interest, and less any abatement granted. For
158 owners of residential property located in communities which have not exercised the option to
159 assess water or sewer debt service charges pursuant to subsection (n) of section 21C of chapter
160 59, the real estate tax payment to be considered for purposes of calculating this credit shall also
161 include 50 per cent of the owner's water and sewer charges actually paid in the taxable year for
162 which the credit is sought. In the case of a multi-unit dwelling, a land area in excess of one acre
163 or a multi-purpose building or land area, the real estate tax payment, including the water and
164 sewer charges as applicable, shall constitute that portion of the real estate tax levied and paid,
165 and that portion of applicable water and sewer charges actually paid, on the entire building or

166 area, which corresponds to the portion of the area or building used and occupied as the residence
167 of the taxpayer, in accordance with procedures established by the commissioner."

168 SECTION 16. Said section 6 of said chapter 62 is hereby further amended by inserting
169 after the definition of "Real estate tax payment" the following paragraph:–

170 "Rent constituting real estate tax payment", 25 per cent of the rent actually paid by the
171 taxpayer, under a good faith rental agreement, for the right of occupancy of the residence during
172 the taxable year or a portion thereof."

173 SECTION 17. Notwithstanding section 142K of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as
174 appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, the department of environmental protection shall not
175 adopt or enforce regulations pertaining to motor-vehicle emissions standards based on
176 California's duly promulgated motor-vehicle emissions standards for a period of five years from
177 the effective date of this act.

178 SECTION 18. Section 1 of said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby further amended
179 by inserting after the definition of "Petroleum products" the following definition:– "Portable
180 solar generation device", a moveable photovoltaic generation device that: (i) has a maximum
181 power output of not more than 1,200 watts; (ii) is designed to be connected to a building's
182 electrical system through a standard 120-volt alternating current outlet; (iii) is intended primarily
183 to offset part of the customer's electricity consumption; (iv) includes a device or feature that
184 prevents the system from energizing the building's electrical system during a power outage; (v)
185 meets the standards of the most recent version of the National Electrical Code; and (vi) is
186 certified by Underwriters Laboratories or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory

187 SECTION 19. Section 1A of chapter 164 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024
188 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

189 (h) Neither this section nor sections 1B to 1H, inclusive, shall preclude an electric
190 company or a distribution company from competitively procuring sources of energy generation
191 or energy transportation services, or a combination thereof, provided that a proposal for such
192 generation or transportation services, or both, shall be:

193 (1) secured by a long-term contract executed by an electric company or distribution
194 company with terms of 18 months or greater;

195 (2) subject to the review and approval of the department of public utilities under section
196 ninety-four A, before becoming effective; and

197 (3) meets the following criteria, as determined by the department:

198 (a) is cost-effective to electric and gas ratepayers in the commonwealth over the contract
199 term, taking into consideration potential economic and environmental benefits and
200 opportunities

201 to allocate to, or share costs, on a fair and equitable basis with other states and
202 populations

203 within other states that may benefit from such contracts, among other benefits;

204 (b) provides enhanced electricity reliability, system safety and energy security;

205 (c) contributes to the mitigation of winter electricity price spikes;

- 206 (d) provides energy price-suppression benefits;
- 207 (e) where feasible, creates and fosters economic development and quality jobs in the
- 208 commonwealth; and
- 209 (f) includes benefits to environmental justice populations and low-income ratepayers in
- 210 the commonwealth.

211 SECTION 20. Said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out

212 section 1B, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

213 Section 1B. (a) The department shall define service territories for each distribution

214 company by March 1, 1998, based on the service territories actually served on July 1, 1997, and

215 following to the extent possible municipal boundaries. After March 1, 1998, until terminated by

216 effect of law or otherwise, the distribution company shall have the exclusive obligation to

217 provide distribution service to all retail customers within its service territory, and no other person

218 shall provide distribution service within such service territory without the written consent of such

219 distribution company which shall be filed with the department and the clerk of the municipality

220 so affected.

221 (b) Each distribution company shall provide its customers with default service and shall

222 offer a default service rate to its customers who have chosen retail electricity service from a non

223 utility affiliated generation company or supplier but who require electric service because of a

224 failure of such company or the supplier to provide contracted service or who, for any reason,

225 have never chosen or have stopped receiving such service. The distribution company shall

226 procure supply for such service through competitive bidding or through such other process

227 approved by the department, including procurements of varying lengths and in combination with
228 other distribution companies; provided, however, that standard default service rates, excluding
229 time-varying rates and monthly variable service rates, for residential customers shall be changed
230 no less than once every six months. Any department-approved provider of service, including an
231 affiliate of a distribution company, shall be eligible to participate in the competitive bidding
232 process. The department may require a separate mechanism for recovering certain charges, to be
233 itemized separately on a customer bill, including, but not limited to, those in connection with the
234 wholesale electric markets as administered by ISO New England, Inc. or federal tariffs on
235 imports to such markets. In implementing the provisions of this section, the department shall
236 ensure universal service for all ratepayers and sufficient funding to meet the need therefor.

237 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 5D of chapter 25, the department and the
238 department of energy resources shall have access to all information associated with the bids
239 selected by the distribution company pursuant to the competitive bidding process in this section;
240 provided, however that such information shall not be deemed to be a public record as defined in
241 clause 26 of section 7 of chapter 4 and shall not be subject to demand for production under
242 section 10 of chapter 66; provided, however, that aggregates of such information may be
243 prepared and such aggregates shall be public records.

244 (d) The department is hereby authorized and directed to promulgate rules and regulations
245 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section, including the procedure for default service
246 procurement and governing a customer's ability to return to the default service after choosing
247 retail access from a non-utility affiliated generation company.

248 SECTION 21. Said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after
249 section 1K the following section:-

250 Section 1L. (a) A licensed supplier other than a municipal aggregation supplier shall not
251 provide electric supply service to a low-income residential customer. For the purpose of this
252 section, “low-income residential customer” shall mean a customer actively enrolled in an R2
253 electric rate tariff.

254 (b) A licensed supplier offering electric service to a residential customer other than a
255 municipal aggregation supplier:

256 (i) may not automatically renew a residential customer’s fixed-rate contract to a variable
257 rate contract.

258 (ii) may automatically renew a residential customer’s contract provided that:

259 (1) the customer provides affirmative consent to automatic renewal at the time of
260 enrollment or anytime thereafter; and

261 (2) The supplier provides renewal notices prior to contract expiration as follows: (i) at
262 least 60 days prior; (ii) at least 30 days prior—clearly disclosing the renewal rate, term, and opt
263 out method; and (iii) a final reminder at least 15 days prior.

264 (iii) may not offer to a residential customer a variable rate other than a rate that adjusts
265 for seasonal variation more than twice in a single year or a time-of-use rate that establishes
266 different rates for periods within a single day, or as otherwise approved by the department; (iv)
267 shall, for all in-person sales and telephonic sales, conduct third-party verification confirming the
268 customer’s affirmative and informed consent to the terms of enrollment; (v) may not impose on a

269 residential customer a fee for cancellation or early termination of an electricity supply
270 agreement; and (vi) offer a voluntary renewable or green energy product, provided that:

271 (1) The supplier discloses to the residential customer in plain language and prior to
272 enrollment, that the customer will not receive electricity directly from renewable generating units
273 and that the supplier will acquire and retire renewable energy certificates ("RECs") or other
274 eligible clean energy attributes in an amount equal to the customer's usage.

275 (2) The disclosure identifies the resource type(s) and geographic origin(s) of the RECs to
276 be retired. If such information is not available at the time of enrollment, the supplier shall
277 disclose the resource type(s) and geographic origin(s) of RECs retired for a substantially similar
278 product over the prior twelve (12) months, and provide the specific product's REC details to the
279 residential customer within sixty (60) days after the first billing cycle.

280 (3) The RECs are sourced from any certificate tracking system that assigns unique serial
281 numbers, records issuance, transfer, and retirement, and prevents double counting.

282 (4) The supplier annually reports to the department the amount, type, and location of
283 clean or renewable attributes retired on behalf of residential customers, and the percentage
284 retired in excess of applicable portfolio requirements.

285 (c) The department shall establish and maintain a public website for residential customers
286 to compare available retail electricity supply products. Suppliers must list at least one product
287 available to residential customers on said website. The department shall ensure that the website
288 includes, but is not limited to, all of the following information: (i) the current, and where
289 possible, future default service rate available to a customer pursuant to section 1B; (ii) the default
290 supply rate of any municipal aggregation offering available to a customer pursuant to section

291 134; (iii) the contract term for all products listed; (iv) the percentage of renewable or clean
292 energy content included in the product, including information on the source or location of such
293 content, as determined by the department; (v) all additional products and services included as
294 part of the product; and (vi) the estimated monthly cost to the customer. The website shall allow
295 for products to be sorted and compared to each other.

296 (d) No less than quarterly, suppliers shall provide to the department: (i) a list detailing
297 each rate the supplier charged to residential retail customers in the last quarter; and (ii) the
298 number of low-income and non-low-income residential retail customers charged each rate
299 included in such list by rate class. The department shall publish average rates charged to
300 customer classes and the aggregate number of customers served on the department's website.
301 Any information regarding competitive supply that the department makes available to the public
302 shall be presented only in aggregated or anonymized form and shall not include supplier specific
303 pricing, offers, or terms. Supplier submitted pricing and other commercially sensitive
304 information shall be treated as confidential and used solely for regulatory oversight and market
305 monitoring.

306 (e) No less than annually, suppliers shall provide data to the department concerning any
307 clean or renewable energy attributes retired in connection with the generation service provided to
308 individual residential retail customers. Such data shall include the geographic location and fuel
309 type of each such attribute, and the percentage of the supply purchased in excess of the supplier's
310 annual obligations under the clean and renewable energy portfolio standards established by the
311 department of environmental protection and department of energy resources, respectively. The
312 department shall publish this information from each supplier on its website. Any information
313 regarding competitive supply that the department makes available to the public shall be

314 presented only in aggregated or anonymized form and shall not include supplier specific pricing,
315 offers, or terms. Supplier submitted pricing and other commercially sensitive information shall
316 be treated as confidential and used solely for regulatory oversight and market monitoring.

317 (f) A licensed supplier shall provide written notice to the department prior to any
318 assignment or transfer of their supplier license. Notice shall be provided to the department at
319 least thirty days prior to the effective date of the proposed assignment or transfer. The
320 department may, upon its review of such notice, require certain conditions or deny assignment or
321 transfer of the license.

322 (g) No less than quarterly, the department shall publish each supplier's and electric and
323 gas distribution companies' complaint data, sourced from complaints made to the department as
324 well as those made to the attorney general, as provided to the department annually, on the
325 department's website.

326 (h) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, nothing in this Section
327 shall be construed to apply to any entity organizing or administering a program pursuant to
328 section 137 of chapter 164.

329 SECTION 22. Section 47B of said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
330 adding the following paragraph at the end thereof:- Any municipality acting by and through its
331 municipal light board may provide services and assistance to any municipal or state utility, tribal
332 utility as defined in 25 CFR § 169.2, or any other publicly-owned or operated utility, whether
333 located inside or outside of the Commonwealth, and governmental units as defined in section 4A
334 of chapter 40, to construct, install, alter, operate, maintain or repair utility poles and conduit,
335 wires, cables, and equipment, and streetlights and traffic signals to the same extent such

336 municipality acting by and through its municipal light board may provide such services within its
337 service territory. Any such municipality acting by and through its municipal light board may sell,
338 rent, or lease merchandise, equipment, fixtures, utensils and chattels of any description related to
339 the provision of such services. Any employee providing such services entered into between the
340 municipality acting by and through its municipal light board and such other public entity shall be
341 subject to the provisions of chapter thirty-two, sections one to twenty-eight, inclusive, and shall
342 have the same rights and privileges thereunder, as if performing the same duties within the scope
343 of his employment including voluntary assignments.

344 SECTION 23. Section 69I of said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
345 adding the following paragraph at the end thereof:- The department is authorized to require any
346 electric or gas company to satisfy any or all provisions of this section upon a determination, after
347 notice and a hearing, that such provisions are applicable for an electric or gas company to
348 demonstrate that energy supply procurements under section ninety-four A, should be approved
349 by the department to ensure a necessary energy supply for the commonwealth with a minimum
350 impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost.

351 SECTION 24. Section 94A of said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
352 striking out, in line 2, the words “gas or electricity”, and by inserting in place thereof the
353 following words:- “energy supply, including gas, electricity, transmission, transportation or a
354 combination thereof,”

355 SECTION 25. Section 94A of said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
356 striking out, in line 3, the words “one year”, and by inserting in place thereof the following
357 words:- “18 months”

358 SECTION 26. Said section 94A is hereby further amended by adding in line 4, the words
359 “for energy supply” after the words “unless such contract”

360 SECTION 27. Said section 94A is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 5, 8,
361 10, 13 and 16, the words “gas or electricity”, and by inserting in place thereof the words “energy
362 supply”

363 SECTION 28. Section 133 of said Chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
364 inserting after the word “plant”, in line 12, the following sentence: -

365 “Any municipal lighting plant providing emergency mutual aid may sell, rent, or lease
366 equipment, fixtures, and goods of any description related to the provision of emergency mutual
367 aid”

368 Said section 133 is hereby further amended by adding at the end of line 12 the following
369 sentence:-

370 “Any employee of a municipal lighting plant providing emergency mutual aid, shall be
371 covered by the provisions of chapter thirty-two, sections one to twenty-eight, inclusive, as may
372 be amended from time to time, and shall have the same rights and privileges thereunder, as if
373 performing such duties within the scope of his employment including voluntary assignments
374 authorized by the employer.”

375 Said section 133 is hereby further amended by adding in line 27, the word “utility”, the
376 following words:-“or its employees”

377 SECTION 29. Subsection (f) of section 139 of chapter 164, as appearing in the 2024
378 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence.

379 SECTION 30. Subsection (i) of said section 139 of said chapter 164, as so appearing, is
380 hereby amended by striking out, in lines 137 to 138, inclusive, and lines 145 to 147, inclusive,
381 each time they appear, the words “that are not net metering facilities of a municipality or other
382 governmental entity under subsection (f)”.

383 SECTION 31. Said subsection (i) of said section 139 of said chapter 164, as so appearing,
384 is hereby amended by striking out the figure “25”, each time it appears, and inserting in place
385 there of the following figure:- “35”.

386 SECTION 32. Said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding after
387 section 143 the following section:- Section 143A. (a) A portable solar generation device shall be
388 exempt from: (i) the interconnection requirements described in this chapter; (ii) requirements to
389 enter into an interconnection agreement; and (iii) the net metering program requirements under
390 this chapter. (b) An electric company may not require a customer using a portable solar
391 generation device to: (i) obtain the electrical corporation’s approval before installing or using the
392 system; (ii) pay any fee or charge related to the system; or (iii) install any additional controls or
393 equipment beyond what is integrated into the system. An electric company shall not be liable for
394 any damage or injury caused by a portable solar generation device.

395 SECTION 33. Sections 34 and 112 of chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021 are hereby repealed.

396 SECTION 34. Chapter 503 of the acts of 1982 is hereby repealed.

397 SECTION 35. Subsection (d) of section 81 of chapter 179 of the acts of 2022 is hereby
398 amended by striking out paragraph (5), as appearing in section 103 of chapter 239 of the acts of
399 2024, and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

400 (5) Not later than 12 months after the completion of each assessment, each electric
401 distribution company may submit to the department of public utilities its plan and an application
402 to revise its rates to account for the additional distribution infrastructure included in the plan
403 pursuant to paragraph (4). The application shall include: (i) testimony that explains how the
404 application is consistent with the plan pursuant to said paragraph (4); (ii) an explanation of the
405 need for each distribution infrastructure investment; (iii) supporting documentation
406 demonstrating that the actual or estimated costs for each distribution infrastructure investment
407 are reasonable; and (iv) the actual or estimated in-service date of the distribution infrastructure
408 investment. Such application shall be preliminarily approved by the department of public utilities
409 not later than 6 months after submission; provided, however, that the requested rate revision is
410 consistent with the department's practices and incremental costs are not otherwise accounted for
411 in the electric distribution company's existing rates. The department's review of such application
412 shall not be construed as a prudence review. No rate revision shall take effect unless and until the
413 department issues a written decision approving the application within 6 months after submission.

414 SECTION 36. There shall be established a special commission to study the oversight,
415 operating structure, financing, and administration of Mass Save and its programs. The
416 commission shall be comprised of the following members or their designees: the chairs of the
417 joint committee on telecommunications, utilities and energy, who shall serve as the co-chairs; the
418 chairs of the joint committee on environment and natural resources; the chairs of the joint
419 committee on consumer protection and professional licensure; the speaker of the house; the
420 senate president; the minority leader of the senate; the minority leader of the house; the attorney
421 general; the secretary of the executive office of energy and environmental affairs; the
422 commissioner of the department of energy resources; the chair of the department of public

423 utilities; the secretary of the executive office of economic development; the state director of
424 AARP Massachusetts; and the president of the Environmental League of Massachusetts.

425 The commission shall include in its review the following, including but not limited to:

426 (i) the current operating structure of Mass Save;

427 (ii) the implications of Mass Save's programs being administered by utility companies;

428 (iii) the potential benefits of transferring the operations of Mass Save to an independent
429 entity without a financial interest in energy consumption;

430 (iv) the costs of operating Mass Save and its programming, including administrative
431 costs, customer incentives, and benefits administration;

432 (v) the effectiveness of the programs administered by Mass Save, including a breakdown
433 of energy and cost savings, and participation in the program by demographic, age, and income;

434 (vi) the current data reporting requirements and reporting structure imposed on Mass
435 Save and its programming;

436 (vii) the cost-effectiveness of the administration of the program;

437 (viii) a review of comparable programs in other states, and how these programs are
438 operated and funded;

439 (ix) the feasibility of transferring the operations of Mass Save and the administration of
440 its programs to another entity, including which types of entities have the capacity and are best
441 suited to do so.

442 The commission shall hold at least 4 public listening sessions in various regions of the
443 commonwealth to solicit feedback from consumers, commercial groups, advocacy groups, state
444 agencies, industry experts and stakeholders, and any other groups deemed necessary by the
445 commission.

446 The commission shall submit its findings and recommendations to the house and senate
447 committees on ways and means, the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities and energy,
448 and the clerks of the house and senate within 12 months of the passage of this act.

449 SECTION 37. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule or regulation to the
450 contrary, high voltage transmission line installations on highways with full control of access
451 shall be permitted and may be constructed, placed, or maintained across any public right of way
452 or along any highway, freeway, federally aided state highway, controlled access highway,
453 interstate highway, or roadway, except as deemed necessary by the secretary of transportation to
454 protect public safety or ensure the proper function of the highway. The utility owner shall in each
455 case submit an application to the energy facilities siting board and department of transportation
456 that demonstrates: (i) the accommodation will not adversely affect the safety, durability,
457 construction, traffic operations, maintenance, or service life of the highway, (ii) the
458 accommodation will not unduly interfere with or impair the present use or future expansion of
459 the highway; (iii) access for constructing and servicing utility facility will not adversely affect
460 safety and traffic operations or damage any highway facility; (iv) consideration is given to
461 planned future expansion of the highway; and (v) consideration is given to ensuring the
462 accommodation meets the criteria pursuant to subsection (b).

463 When a permissible route along a highway corridor has been identified by the department
464 of transportation and the utility owner or developer, a constructability, access and maintenance
465 report shall be prepared by the utility owner or developer. The department of transportation shall
466 engage in consultation with the utility owner or developer in the creation of the report and shall
467 include the terms and conditions for building the co-location project. Included within the report
468 shall be an agreed upon timeframe for which there will not be any request by the department of
469 transportation for relocation of the transmission line. If the department of transportation needs a
470 transmission line in its right-of-way relocated, it shall give the utility a 10-year advance notice.
471 The report must be approved by both parties prior to the department of transportation issuing a
472 permit for use of the highway right-of-way.

473 In all cases of new longitudinal utility accommodations, whether for highways or non-
474 highways, the utility owner shall obtain a highway access permit and install the utility facility in
475 accordance with the approved permit.

476 If the energy facilities siting board denies a high voltage electric line co-location request,
477 the reasons for the denial must be submitted to the department of transportation, the department
478 of public utilities, and made publicly available, within 90 days of the denial.

479 (b) In the siting of new electric transmission facilities, including high-voltage
480 transmission lines, it is the policy of this state that the following corridors shall be considered in
481 the following order of priority: (i) Existing utility corridors, (ii) highway (interstate, freeway and
482 state highways) and railroad corridors; and (iii) new corridors.

483 Permitting on priority corridors shall be done to the greatest extent feasible that is
484 consistent with but limited to the following criteria: (i) economic and engineering considerations,

485 (ii) reliability of the electric system, (iii) public safety, (iv) and the protection of the
486 environment.

487 SECTION 38. The Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, in consultation with
488 the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, is hereby authorized and directed to develop and
489 implement the framework of a regional compact among the states of Massachusetts, New
490 Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, and Connecticut for the purposes of research and development
491 regarding energy produced by nuclear fusion. Said compact shall include, but not be limited to,
492 the mission of the compact, specific focus areas, personnel and financial requirements, and other
493 elements necessary to the operation of the compact.

494 The compact shall include the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan
495 to obtain all necessary regulatory approvals for, finance, and operate, one or more nuclear fusion
496 reactors for research, provided that the costs of such actions shall be addressed by a formula to
497 facilitate fair contributions from each member state, together with any gifts or grants, including
498 but not limited to those provided by the United States Department of Energy. Such plan may
499 include recommendations for regulatory or statutory measures to assess regulated energy
500 companies for costs associated with the compact.

501 The secretary shall establish a Fusion Research Council to provide guidance in carrying
502 out the provisions of this act. Said council shall consist of the secretary, who shall serve as its
503 chair, the executive director of the clean energy center, the secretary of economic development
504 or a designee, the commissioner of the department of environmental protection or a designee,
505 and 7 members appointed by the governor, whom shall include individuals representing 3
506 institutions of higher learning in the commonwealth, 1 of which shall be the University of

507 Massachusetts and 1 of which shall be the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1 member
508 representing employers in the commonwealth, 1 member representing organized labor in the
509 commonwealth, 1 member representing an organization engaged in independent nuclear energy
510 research in the commonwealth, and 1 member representing the taxpayers of the commonwealth.
511 The council shall convene as deemed necessary by its chair, but not less than quarterly.

512 The secretary, in accordance with the plan developed pursuant to this act, and subject to
513 the approval of the governor and the great and general court, shall solicit member states for
514 participation in the compact, provided that such states shall designate representatives according
515 to the terms of the compact. Representatives shall serve for a term, and under such conditions, as
516 the state being represented shall establish.

517 The secretary shall submit the plan developed pursuant to section 1 in the form of
518 legislation filed with the clerk of the Senate not later than 12 months following the passage of
519 this act, the passage of which shall constitute the approval prescribed in this section.

520 The secretary shall file reports detailing the progress made in the development of the
521 compact, any costs estimates for its implementation, and any recommendations for legislative or
522 regulatory actions to advance the mission of the compact, not less than every three months, with
523 the clerks of the House and Senate, the Joint Committee on Telecommunications and Energy,
524 and the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means.

525 SECTION 39. There shall be a special commission to analyze the costs of natural gas in
526 the commonwealth, and to make recommendations for measures to contain and reduce those
527 costs for residential and commercial consumers.

528 The commission shall consist of the chair of the department of public utilities
529 commission, who shall serve as it's chair, the director of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center,
530 10 members appointed by the governor, three of whom shall represent natural gas transmission
531 and distribution companies, one of which one shall represent municipalities in the
532 commonwealth, two of whom shall have expertise in energy policy and represent consumers in
533 the commonwealth, one of whom shall represent large employers in the commonwealth, one of
534 whom shall represent small employers in the commonwealth, one member representing the
535 North East Gas Association, and one member representing environmental organizations in the
536 commonwealth, and one member appointed by the attorney general of the commonwealth with
537 expertise in energy policy. Administrative support for the operations of the commission shall be
538 provided by the department of public utilities.

539 Said commission shall evaluate all of the factors contributing to the cost of natural gas for
540 residential and commercial consumers in the commonwealth, and any and all options for
541 reducing such costs in the short and long terms, together with the impacts of such options on
542 efforts to reduce carbon emissions pursuant to current statutory and regulatory obligations, and
543 the impacts of such options on employment levels and the economy of the commonwealth,
544 provided that such commission shall conduct not less than three public hearings which shall
545 accommodate remote electronic participation, provided further that the commission shall file a
546 report detailing its findings, together with any recommendations, with the clerks of the House
547 and Senate, and the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy not later than
548 December 31, 2026, provided further that the commission may file an interim report prior to
549 such date.

550 SECTION 40. Section 8 is hereby repealed.

551 SECTION 41. Sections 13 and 14 shall be effective for the tax year beginning on January
552 1, 2026.

553 SECTION 42. Sections 13 and 14 are hereby repealed.

554 SECTION 43. Sections 15, 16, 40 and 42 shall take effect on January 1, 2029.