

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES, AND ENERGY

BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO.	H.3445
TITLE:	An Act to promote solar panel installations on school property
SPONSOR:	Representative Jennifer Balinsky Armini (Marblehead)
COMMITTEE:	Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
HEARING DATE:	October 9, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY:	2023-24 (<i>H.3136</i>) - Accompanied House Study Order
CURRENT LAW:	N/A

SUMMARY:

Requires EEA in coordination with DOER to establish a program to promote and support solar panels at K-12 public schools in the Commonwealth, including municipal and state education offices. The program shall include:

- Incentives to encourage construction, installation, operation of solar panels, which may require incentive payments, tax reductions or deferrals, loans or grants, expedited interconnection requirements, zoning or other regulatory preferences
- Expanding installation of solar in the commonwealth
- Maximizing energy use savings of solar at K-12 public schools in the commonwealth
- Expand the availability of solar panel EV charging infrastructure
- Roof quality evaluations when considering installation of solar on public schools
- Such other criteria and conditions necessary for success of program

In designing the program, DOER shall:

- Consult with an advisory group to make recommendations concerning design and operation of the program. The advisory group shall include:
 - o Representative of DOER, who shall chair the group
 - o Representative of DESE
 - o Representative of organized labor
 - o Representative of solar industry
 - o Representative of environmental group concerned with energy
 - o Representative of construction industry
 - o Representative of electric utility or organization representing electric utility
 - o Representative of local government in MA
 - o Expert in energy siting
 - o Expert in solar energy and energy efficiency

- Review the design, installation and operation of solar panels proposed or in operation in other states
- Review cost and benefit analysis of K-12 public schools leasing solar panels rather than operating them
- Review federal IRA of 2022 for possible funding for the installation of solar panels
- Hold at least 3 public hearings in different regions of commonwealth