

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES, AND ENERGY**

**BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H.3452

**TITLE:** An Act protecting consumers from unreasonable utility rate increases

**SPONSOR:** Representative Natalie Blais

**COMMITTEE:** Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

**HEARING DATE:** June 4, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** 2023-2024: H.3143 accompanied a study order  
2021-2022: S.2143 accompanied a study order  
2019-2020: S.1933 accompanied a study order

**CURRENT LAW:**

Section 94 of chapter 164 of the General Laws governs utility base rate filings before the department of public utilities (DPU).

**SUMMARY:**

Section 1 of this bill prohibits the DPU from approving an annual allowed “return on equity” (ROE) for electric and gas companies that would be higher than the average annual allowed ROE for all base rate cases approved in the last four years in neighboring states (CT, RI, ME, VT, and NH). The prohibition may be waived upon a specific showing that the gas or electric company’s constitutional rights would be violated. The prohibition shall not apply to energy efficiency programs, or any other performance incentives promoting a clean, efficient electric or gas system.