

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

**BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H.3457

**TITLE:** An Act relative to municipal light plants

**SPONSOR:** Representative Michael S. Chaisson

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

**HEARING DATE:** June 12, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** 2023-2024: H.3142 (Rep. Barrows), reported favorably by TUE sent to House steering, policy, and scheduling and ordered to a third reading  
2021-2022: H.3257, heard by committee, no further action taken.

**CURRENT LAW:**

Chapter 164 governs the manufacture and sale of gas and electricity. Section 47B allows municipal light boards to construct, purchase, operate, own, or otherwise have the right to the use of plants – including subtransmission, transmission, distribution, and generation facilities – located outside of the municipality's limits.

**SUMMARY:**

This legislation adds a subsection to section 47B to allow municipal light boards to provide services – including the construction, installation, operation, or maintenance of utility poles and conduit, wires, cables, and equipment, and streetlights and traffic signals – to assist utilities, including their own municipal light plant. The amendment allows municipalities to sell, rent, or lease relevant merchandise, equipment, fixtures, utensils and chattels. It also renders employees providing such services eligible for retirement systems and pensions.

For further information, contact Caleb Oakes of the Telecommunications, Utilities, & Energy Committee staff at [Caleb.Oakes@mahouse.gov](mailto:Caleb.Oakes@mahouse.gov) or 617-612-5296.