

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES, AND ENERGY

BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO. H.3466

TITLE: An Act facilitating public ownership of public utilities

SPONSOR: Representative Mike Connolly

COMMITTEE: Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

HEARING DATE: June 12, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: 2021-2022: H.4025 heard by TUE; accompanied study order H.5042.
2023-2024: H.3679 heard by TUE; accompanied study order H.4778.

CURRENT LAW:

Chapter 164, Section 34B pertains to the removal or installation of utility poles by distribution companies or telephone companies.

SUMMARY:

This bill creates a task force to study and make recommendations to the Legislature for public ownership of:

- Natural gas generation, distribution, supply, purchase, and sale
- Electricity generation and distribution to commercial, industrial, and residential customers in MA

Task force composition:

- House and Senate Chairs of TUE Committee
- House and Senate Chairs of Municipalities and Regional Government Committee
- Attorney General
- DPU Chair
- President of the MA Public Interest Research Group, Inc.
- ELM President
- Executive Director of the Better Future Project
- Chair of Executive Committee for Sierra Club MA chapter
- 1 representative of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers from the Boston, Brockton, Springfield, and Worcester unions
- Representative from IBEW Local Union 99 who must be a MA resident
- Representative from United Steel Workers appointed from each local district in MA
- Chair of the board of the MA Municipal Wholesale Electric Company

The task force shall meet at least once a month and shall make a recommendation to the Legislature by the year 2028. The recommendations shall be filed as a report, along with a joint petition, with the clerks of the House and Senate, chairs of the TUE Committee, and the chairs of the Municipalities and Regional Government committee, which will be due no later than January 1, 2027.