

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES, AND ENERGY

BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO. H.3477

TITLE: An Act relative to clean lighting and appliance efficiency standards

SPONSOR: Rep. Marjorie C. Decker

COMMITTEE: Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

HEARING DATE: September 25, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: New bill

CURRENT LAW:

MGL Chapter 21H s. 6J: refers to the sale and collection of mercury-added products.

MGL Chapter 25B: establishes state energy and water efficiency standards for appliances and products, setting minimum performance requirements, definitions, and enforcement mechanisms to reduce energy use and promote conservation.

SUMMARY:

The bill strikes the existing definition of “mercury-added lamp” and replaces with definitions for compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) and linear fluorescent lamps (LFL). On and after January 1, 2027, the bill prohibits the sale and distribution of a new manufactured screw or bayonet base type compact fluorescent lamp, a pin-base type compact fluorescent lamp, or a linear fluorescent lamp:

“Compact fluorescent lamp”, is defined as a compact low-pressure, mercury-containing, electric-discharge light source in which a fluorescent coating transforms some of the ultraviolet energy generated by the mercury discharge into visible light, and includes all of the following characteristics: (i) One base (end cap) of any type, including, but not limited to, screw, bayonet, two pins, and four pins; (ii) Integrally ballasted or non-integrally ballasted; (iii) Light emission between a correlated color temperature of 1700K and 24000K and a Duv of +0.024 and -0.024 in the International Commission on Illumination (CIE) Uniform Color Space (CAM02-UCS); (iv) All tube diameters and all tube lengths; and (v) All lamp sizes and shapes for directional and nondirectional installations, including, but not limited to, PL, spiral, twin tube, triple twin, 2D, U-bend, and circular.

“Linear fluorescent lamp”, is defined as a low-pressure, mercury-containing, electric-discharge light source in which a fluorescent coating transforms some of the ultraviolet energy generated by the mercury discharge into visible light, and includes all of the following characteristics: (i) Two bases (end caps) of any type, including, but not limited to, single-pin, two-pin, and recessed double contact; (ii) Light emission between a correlated color temperature of 1700K and 24000K and a Duv of +0.024 and -0.024 in the CIE CAM02-UCS; (iii) All tube diameters, including, but not limited to, T5, T8, T10, and T12; (iv) All tube lengths from 0.5 to 8.0 feet, inclusive; and (v) All lamp shapes, including, but not limited to, linear, U-bend, and circular.

This bill also creates new subsections (k)–(u) listing exemptions to the 2027 ban. CFLs and LFLs are still allowed for: image projection, photocopying, printing, lithography, film, holography, ultraviolet, germicidal, disinfection lamps, ozone generation, coral reef aquariums, sunlamps, medical/veterinary

devices, pharmaceutical manufacturing, spectroscopy and monitoring, and motor vehicle replacements for cars made before 2020.

The bill establishes the following enforcement and penalties for violations: an initial warning for the first offense; followed by a \$100 fine for second offense; then a \$500 fine for further offenses. Each lamp per day constitutes a separate violation. Repeated violations may be referred to the Attorney General for injunctions.

This bill also makes changes to Chapter 25B by expanding Massachusetts' efficiency standards to cover new categories of products, tightening faucet/shower flow limits, and aligning the commonwealth with ENERGY STAR and California standards. Enforcement prohibits sales and also incorporates installation bans:

Technical definitions are added to the following products:

- Accessory (plumbing parts like aerators, shower assemblies).
- Battery backup/UPS charger (using CA regulations).
- Cation exchange (water softening process).
- Computer server & server power supply unit.
- Decorative gas fireplace vs. heating gas fireplace (distinguishing efficiency standards).
- Gas fireplace (umbrella term).
- Large battery charger system (over 2 kW).
- Residential water softener.
- State-regulated battery charger system.

The bill updates/increases standards for the following products:

- Faucets: max flow 1.2 gpm (with 2.2 gpm temporary boost at 60 psi).
- Showerheads: max 1.8 gpm at 80 psi.
- Commercial ovens: must meet ENERGY STAR v3.0.
- Commercial dishwashers: must meet ENERGY STAR v3.0.

The bill creates new standards for the following products:

- Computer server power supplies: must meet ENERGY STAR v4.0.
- Gas fireplaces:
 - Must auto-extinguish pilot flame when main burner goes out.
 - Ignition sources can't run more than 7 days after last use.
 - Heating gas fireplaces must reach $\geq 50\%$ efficiency (CSA P.4.1-15 test).
- Large battery chargers & UPS systems: Must meet CA (C.C.R. Title 20) efficiency rules.
- Residential water softeners:
 - Must meet NSF/ANSI 44 standards.
 - Salt efficiency ≥ 4000 grains hardness per pound.
 - Water use ≤ 4 gallons per 1000 grains hardness removed.

As of January 1, 2027, the bill requires that there be no sale, lease, or rental of new products covered by the new standards (dishwashers, ovens, server PSUs, faucets, fireplaces, water softeners, showerheads, battery chargers) unless compliant. As of January 1, 2028, noncompliant products cannot be installed for compensation.