

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES, AND ENERGY

BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO. H.3486

TITLE: An Act relative to municipal light plant emergency mutual aid

SPONSOR: Representative Kimberly Ferguson (*Holden*)

COMMITTEE: Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

HEARING DATE: June 12, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: 2023-24: H.3699 heard by TUE; favorable report to House Steering, Policy & Scheduling; no further action taken
2021-22: H.4067 heard by TUE, no further action taken.

CURRENT LAW:

M.G.L. Chapter 164: The manufacture and sale of gas and electricity.

Section 133: allows for utility companies to request from or provide emergency mutual aid to other utility companies. Gives the companies the same protections as if in regular course of business.

SUMMARY:

Adds to the definition of “emergency mutual aid” that a municipal light plant (MLP) providing emergency mutual aid may sell, rent, or lease infrastructure related to the provision of emergency mutual aid.

Ensures that any employee of an MLP providing emergency mutual aid shall be covered as though performing these duties within the scope of their employment. Adds those employees do not lose or are not exempt from benefits given to them by the Commonwealth solely by reasoning of a request or when providing emergency mutual aid.