JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES, AND ENERGY

BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO.	H.3499
TITLE:	An Act to promote low-income access to solar
SPONSOR:	Representative Danielle W. Gregoire
COMMITTEE:	Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
HEARING DATE:	October 9, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY:	2023-2024: H.3170, accompanied a new draft, H.4503 and was reported favorably by Committee and referred to House Ways and Means.

CURRENT LAW:
Chapter 164 of the General Laws pertains to the manufacture and sale of gas and electricity.

SUMMARY:
Inserts a new section into Chapter 164 of the General Laws and requires the DOER to ensure equity and accessibility, and to promote participation by renters and low-income retail electric customers in DOER's solar incentive program by implementing a low-income customer verification process.

Low-income customers will include the following:

- those at or below 80% of the area median income or 200% of the federal poverty level
- small businesses that are independently owned and operated
- A low-income multi-unit building that meets the definition under MGL c40B, section 20, or otherwise receives tax credits under the US Department of Housing and Urban Development Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program

In the implementation of the program, the DOER shall:

- Require income data verification to determine eligibility for low-income customers
- Prohibit credit checks as a means of establishing eligibility for residential customers to become subscribers
- Prohibit the use of early termination and exit fees
- Require EDCs generating an alternative form of on-bill credits to at least once monthly accept and implement any changes to recipient identities and credits attributed to designated recipients
- Exempt low-income multi-unit building owners from bill credit maximums and subscriber count minimums for the host project

*Note: This bill adds section 149 to Chapter 164 of the General Laws, however, sections 149 – 151 were previously added to Chapter 164 by Chapter 239 of the Acts of 2024.