

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES, AND ENERGY

BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO. H.3505

TITLE: An Act relative to construction for the installation or repair of utility lines

SPONSOR: Representative Russell Holmes

COMMITTEE: Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

HEARING DATE: June 4, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: 2023-2024: H.3217 heard by TUE committee; accompanied study order H.4778
2021-2022: H.2876 heard by TUE committee; accompanied study order H.5042.
2019-2020: H.2876 heard by TUE committee; accompanied study order H.4405.

CURRENT LAW:

M.G.L. chapter 164 section 70 concerns the opening of streets by a gas company and the requirement that a municipality must provide prior authorization for any such project.

M.G.L. chapter 165 section 20 concerns the opening of streets by a water or aqueduct company and the requirement that a municipality must provide prior authorization for any such project.

M.G.L. chapter 166 section 22 concerns the consent of municipal officers to construct or alter utility lines.

SUMMARY:

Section 1 of this bill requires a gas company intending to carry out a project that involves the opening of the opening of a street, lane, or highway of a municipality to provide written notice of the time and expected duration of the construction to owners of real estate abutting or within 100 feet of the construction location at least 14 days in advance.

Section 2 requires a water or aqueduct company intending to carry out a project that involves the opening of the opening of a street, lane, or highway of a municipality to provide written notice of the time and expected duration of the construction to owners of real estate abutting or within 100 feet of the construction location at least 14 days in advance.

Section 3 requires a telecommunications or electric company intending to carry out a project that involves the construction of a transmission line upon, along, or under a street, lane, or highway of a municipality to provide written notice of the time and expected duration of the construction to owners of real estate abutting or within 100 feet of the construction location at least 14 days in advance.