

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES, AND ENERGY

BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO. H.3513

TITLE: An Act to ensure notice to abutting communities of applications to the department of public utilities

SPONSOR: Representative Sally P. Kerans

COMMITTEE: Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

HEARING DATE: June 12, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: 2023-2024: H.3800; accompanied a study order, H.4778

CURRENT LAW:

Chapter 25 of the General Laws pertains to the Department of Public Utilities.

SUMMARY:

This legislation introduces the following requirements for applicants seeking permits from the DPU for any project:

- **Notification to Host Community and Abutting Areas:** Applicants must notify the host community, as well as neighboring cities and towns, within 30 days of submitting their application. They must use acceptable forms of notice, including emails to relevant officials, and include "Proposed Project Siting" in the subject line.
- **Department Notification:** DPU, upon receiving an application, must inform the host community, abutting cities, and towns within 60 days. This notification must include the applicant's information and inform the public about their right to provide testimony on the project. It should also include details on how to participate in a public hearing, including the hearing's date, time, and location.
- **Mandatory Public Hearing Participation:** Applicants must attend public hearings called by the legislative bodies of the host community and neighboring cities or towns to present their project. Failure to attend as requested can result in the department granting intervenor status to previously excluded parties.