

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES, AND ENERGY

BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO. H.3537

TITLE: An Act ensuring ratepayer and community representation un utility company regulatory proceedings

SPONSOR: Representative James M. Murphy

COMMITTEE: Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

HEARING DATE: June 4, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: 2023-2024: H.3201 heard by committee, accompanied a study order, see H4778
2021-2022: H.3357 heard by committee, accompanied a study order, see H.5042.
2019-2020: H.2905 heard by TUE committee; accompanied study order H.4405.
2017-2018: H.1767 referred to TUE; heard by committee; accompanied study order H.4651.
2015-2016: H.3776 accompanied a study order, H.4177.

CURRENT LAW:

Chapter 30A deals with state administrative procedure and includes statutes that define adjudicatory proceedings and the rules under which they operate. The law defines parties (for adjudicatory proceedings) as specifically named persons whose rights, duties or privileges are being determined, or any other person who as a matter of constitutional right or by any provision in MGL is entitled to participate in the proceeding. It allows departments to further define classes of persons who may become parties.

Additionally, section 10A in this chapter allows for a group of people to be considered a party if there is or will be environmental damage, and the subsequent intervention must be limited to the issue of damage to the environment.

SUMMARY:

This legislation would allow a municipality within the service area of the electric or gas company, any member of the general court whose district includes ratepayers of such company, and any group of not less than 10 persons who are ratepayers of the company to be recognized as a full party for any petition, request for approval, or investigation of a gas or electric company in an adjudicatory proceeding.