

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES, AND ENERGY**

**BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H.3549

**TITLE:** An Act to remove woody biomass from the greenhouse gas emissions standard for municipal lighting plants

**SPONSOR:** Representative Orlando Ramos

**COMMITTEE:** Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

**HEARING DATE:** June 18, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** 2023-2024: Filed as H.3210; heard by TUE Committee; no further action taken.

**CURRENT LAW:**

Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021 is known as *An Act creating a next-generation roadmap for Massachusetts climate policy* (the “Roadmap Law”). Sections 33-34, 102, and 112 of said Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021 insert a new Section 11F3/4 into Chapter 25A of the General Laws.

Section 11F3/4 of Chapter 25A of the General Laws establishes the Municipal Light Plant Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standard (GGES). The GGES requires all municipal light plants to achieve 50% non-emitting electricity by 2030, 75% by 2040, and net zero by 2050. EEA must conduct a comprehensive study within two years of the act’s effective date regarding the greenhouse gas and public health impacts of the combustion of biomass fuels. Effective January 1, 2026, biomass fuel is added as an eligible resource in the GGES program.

**SUMMARY:**

\*Note: As currently written, H.3549 makes erroneous reference to Sections 34 and 112 of Chapter 8 of the General Laws, which do not exist. Committee staff have confirmed with the bill sponsor’s office that the correct citation of the statute should be to Sections 34 and 112 of Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021. This bill summary is written according to this corrected citation.

This legislation would strike the inclusion of biomass fuel as eligible resource in the GGES program for municipal light plants (MLPs).