

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES, AND ENERGY

BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO. H.3556

TITLE: An Act relative to current and future electric rates

SPONSOR: Representative Jeffrey N. Roy

COMMITTEE: Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

HEARING DATE: June 4, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: New file

CURRENT LAW: N/A

SUMMARY:

Establishes a task force on electric rates with the purpose of advising the Legislature, the Governor's administration, and the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (TUE) on the current and future cost of electricity in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The task force will be chaired by the Attorney General and include the following members (or their designee):

- EEA Secretary
- DOER Commissioner
- DPU representative
- One representative from each investor-owned electric utility operating in Massachusetts with a combined service territory of more than 100,000 retail and commercial customers
- ISO New England representative
- House and Senate TUE Committee Chairs
- 2 individuals knowledgeable about electricity rates, appointed by the Speaker of the House
- 2 individuals knowledgeable about electricity rates, appointed by the Senate President

All meetings of the task force will be open to the public and include opportunities for public comment, with the first meeting to be convened no later than 30 days after the effective date of this legislation.

The task force is directed to produce a report that must be made available for public comment for a period of 30 days not later than 9 months after the convening of the task force. A final report, including any changes made pursuant to the public comment period, must be delivered to the following recipients within 30 days of the public comment period closing:

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Senate President

- House and Senate Clerks
- Members of the TUE Committee

The task force's report must identify the following:

- Each cost component that comprises the electric bill for residential and commercial customers of each investor-owned electric utility.
- The total revenue raised statewide from each cost component, separated by utility and customer class.
- The current total cost to each customer class on a kilowatt-hour basis and monthly basis for the typical user in each rate class.
- The annual rate increase for each cost component for the previous 10 years, and the projected annual rate increases or range of rate increases expected over the next 5 years.

These individual rate components will be compared with current and projected rate components of all other New England states, and at least 3 other states considered to be economic competitors to Massachusetts.