

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES, AND ENERGY

BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO. H.3565

TITLE: An Act relative to Mass Save assessments

SPONSOR: Representative Amy Mah Sangiolo

COMMITTEE: Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

HEARING DATE: September 25, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: 2023-2024: S.2103 heard by the TUE Committee; no further action taken.

CURRENT LAW:

Section 21 of Chapter 25 pertains to the Mass Save program.

SUMMARY:

SECTION 1: This bill requires the administrators of the Mass Save program to offer, at no cost, a zero-carbon assessment, including a heat load calculation, to customers to identify measures that customers would need to take to operate their buildings without fossil fuels, and to identify program rebates and incentives available to assist customers in implementing those measures. The zero-carbon assessment will also include a safety evaluation involving a combustion safety test of existing fossil fuel appliances, an instrumented test for ambient gas and gas leaks at the gas meter, and a test of existing carbon monoxide alarms.

Measures identified in a zero-carbon assessment may include, but shall not be limited to:

- Improving building shell insulation
- Air sealing
- Air duct sealing
- Improving air exchange and indoor air quality
- Upgraded windows, doors, cladding systems
- Electric wiring and service upgrades
- On-site solar generation
- Electrical or thermal storage
- Electric peak load management equipment and software
- Replacing fossil fuel appliances and equipment with electric or otherwise non-combusting appliances and equipment

Customers who receive a zero-carbon assessment shall be provided with a zero-carbon report that identifies, for each emissions-reduction measure identified in the assessment, additional benefits including, but not limited to:

- Improvements in comfort, safety, and health, including indoor air quality
- Cost savings
- Any other information the program administrators determine to be necessary

The zero-carbon report will also include at least one scenario that incorporates and identifies the benefits of utilizing a combination of efficiency measures, along with replacement of gas appliances, on-site solar and storage, promotional electric and low-income utility rates, and utility incentives for energy usage outside of peak demand times.

Requires MassCEC to develop the zero-carbon assessment and zero-carbon report in consultation with the program administrators and the energy efficiency advisory council.

SECTION 2: Requires the energy efficiency investment plans and natural gas efficiency investment plans prepared by electric distribution companies and municipal aggregators to include a method for capturing the following data to assess the plan's services to low-income ratepayers:

- The total number of ratepayers per municipality service
- The total energy efficiency surcharge dollars paid by ratepayers as part of their utility bills per municipality service
- The total incentives provided by the program administrators by municipality served
- Requires the above data to be delineated by utility and sector, including residential, residential low-income, commercial and industrial, and zip code.

SECTION 3: Requires electric distribution companies, municipal aggregators with certified efficiency plans, and natural gas distribution companies to, by no later than March 31 of each year, provide to the DOER with the above data collected during the previous calendar year. DOER shall publish this data on the website of the EEAC by April 30 of each year.

Directs the Mass Save program administrators to establish qualification criteria for contractors approved to install appliances and conduct retrofits pursuant to the recommendations of a customer's zero-carbon assessment, who must agree to the following:

- Adherence to program and industry standards (contractors and their employees; subcontractors)
- Warranty of their work for at least 12 months after project completion
- Quality assurance assessments
- Require employees and subcontractors to participate in periodic training programs

When assembling lists of contractors that are approved to install recommendations from the zero-carbon assessments, the Mass Save program administrators are to give preference to qualified women- or minority-owned businesses, as well as to qualified businesses located in or serving environmental justice communities.

The Mass Save program administrators must provide the Governor, the House and Senate Clerks, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House, and the House and Senate TUE Committee Chairs with an annual report on the results of the Mass Save program's zero-carbon assessment offerings by March 31st of each year.