

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES, AND ENERGY

BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO. H.3568

TITLE: An Act relative to prohibiting public utility and ratepayer funding of clearcutting forests and woodlands

SPONSOR: Representative Aaron L. Saunders

COMMITTEE: Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

HEARING DATE: June 4, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: 2023-24 (H.3229): Referred to a House Study Order from TUE

CURRENT LAW: N/A

SUMMARY:

This bill directs DOER and DPU to prohibit a solar facility that meets any of the following criteria from qualifying for any current or future solar incentive program:

- located within a parcel that includes priority habitat (as determined by MassWildlife)
- located within an area of critical environmental concern (as determined by EEA)
- located within forest land

The prohibition shall not apply to facilities located within a brownfield, within eligible landfills (as determined by DOER), mounted on buildings, or sited upon previously developed land.