

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

**BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H.3581

**TITLE:** An Act supporting electrical load aggregation programs in the Commonwealth

**SPONSOR:** Representative Tommy Vitolo

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

**HEARING DATE:** June 12, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** 2023-2024: H.3852 heard by TUE Committee; favorably redrafted as part of H.4500; referred to HWM where no further action was taken.

**CURRENT LAW:**

Section 7 of Chapter 4 of the General Laws pertains to the definitions of statutory terms and statutory construction within the MGL.

Section 134 of Chapter 164 pertains to municipal energy aggregation programs.

Section 116C of Chapter 164 was recently added to General Laws by the 2024 Climate Law (see Section 79 of Chapter 239 of the Acts of 2024). It established a statutory definition of “advanced metering infrastructure” (AMI) and requires electric distribution companies (EDCs) deploying AMI to jointly create a centralized data repository provide access to detailed customer AMI data (subject to customer approval and consumer protections).

Section 1D of Chapter 164 pertains to the billing of retail gas and electric customers, the notice of offers available by participating non-utility competitive electricity suppliers, and the payment to suppliers by EDCs.

**SUMMARY:**

**SECTION 1**

This section provides context for the need for an amendment to the existing aggregation statute by recognizing the potential benefits the electrical load aggregation programs can bring to residents and businesses in the Commonwealth and by recognizing that the ability to deliver those benefits is contingent upon an efficient regulatory review process.

**SECTION 2**

Exempts data associated with individual electricity consumers obtained by a public aggregator from the statutory definition of “public records” outlined in Section 7 of Chapter 4 of the General Laws.

**SECTION 3**

Allows public aggregators (“aggregated entities) whose municipal aggregation plans have been approved by the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to deliver information and educational materials regarding its aggregation program to each consumer within the municipality or municipalities participating in such program.

To enable delivery of this information to consumers, this legislation directs the electric distribution companies (EDCs) within whose service territories the municipal aggregation program is occurring to provide aggregated entities with a current list of the names, mailing addresses, email addresses, service addresses, and rate classes of all electric consumers taking distribution service within municipalities where the aggregation program is taking place. Aggregated entities may only use consumer email addresses for communications on behalf of the electrical load aggregation program, and all consumer data associated with individual electricity customers collected by aggregated entities must be protected as confidential.

In order to facilitate automatic enrollment and ratepayer notification, the EDCs are directed to identify within this data all electric accounts within the municipality that are not otherwise receiving generation service from a competitive supplier. The EDCs must provide aggregated entities with enough consumer information about these residents as is necessary to enable their automatic enrollment in the municipal aggregation program.

Directs EDCs to identify consumers in their service territories that are participating in electrical load aggregation programs, in order to monitor program participation.

Also directs EDCs to provide aggregated entities with all historical usage and demand information (including advanced metering data, if collected by customer meters) for the preceding 24 months for consumers eligible for automatic program enrollment, as well as for participating customers. This information will be used by aggregated entities to enable development of and bidding for electric energy and energy-related services in connection with the municipal aggregation program only.

#### SECTION 4

Includes municipal aggregators – along with suppliers and other third parties – in the list of entities that are authorized to access detailed advanced metering infrastructure customer data from the centralized repository that EDCs are directed to establish by November 2026 (pursuant to Section 116C of Chapter 164). Further clarifies that municipal aggregators may access detailed advanced metering data about the individual accounts enrolled with a municipal aggregation, and those accounts that are eligible for automatic enrollment.

#### SECTION 5

Clarifies that the single-bill option from EDCs will be made available to all non-utility suppliers as rate-ready (i.e. the EDC will calculate energy-related charges based on supplier-provided inputs for agreed-upon parameters). The single-bill option will also be available as bill-ready at such time that rate-ready billing is available for advanced metering infrastructure (i.e. the EDC will provide the supplier with metered usage, and the supplier will calculate the energy-related charges and provide such charges to the

EDC). The bill-ready single-bill option will only be available for supply contracts with municipal aggregators and for large commercial and industrial electricity customers.