

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

**BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H.3975

**TITLE:** An Act relative to establishing a commission to address double utility poles in the Commonwealth

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Paul McMurtry

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

**HEARING DATE:** June 4, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** *New bill*

**CURRENT LAW:**  
N/A

**SUMMARY:**

This bill creates a special commission to study and implement a solution for the removal of double utility poles in the commonwealth, which occurs when a replacement utility pole is built alongside an existing utility pole and neither the replacement utility pole nor the existing utility pole is removed.

The commission shall consist of the following 6 members:

- (i) the secretary of the office of energy and environmental affairs or the secretary's designee, who shall serve as chair;
- (ii) a representative from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation;
- (iii) a representative from the Massachusetts Municipal Association, Inc.;
- (iv) a representative from Eversource Energy;
- (v) a representative from National Grid;
- (vi) and a representative from Unitil Resources, Inc.

The study will include, but not be limited to:

- (i) assessments on the current state of double utility poles in the commonwealth;
- (ii) identification of any possible legal, financial and regulatory barriers involving the removal of double utility poles;
- (iii) recommendations for legislation on removal of double utility poles;
- (iv) analysis on the economic implications of removing double utility poles in the commonwealth;
- (v) proposals on funding for the removal of double utility poles; and
- (vi) establishing best practices and procedures for the removal of double utility poles.

The commission will prepare a report on its activities and on any findings and recommendations not later than December 31, 2026.