

Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER:</u>	H334
<u>TITLE:</u>	An Act investigating the economic impact of certain Massachusetts laws
<u>SPONSOR(S):</u>	Rep. Chan and Sen. Moore
<u>HEARING DATE:</u>	April 14, 2025
<u>REPORTING DEADLINE:</u>	June 13, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY

(2019-2020): H207 – Bill reported favorably as redraft, H4332, by Committee and referred to the Rules of Two Branches; committee recommended ought to pass and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means.

(2021-2022): H3711 – Bill reported favorably by Committee and referred to the Rules of Two Branches; committee recommended ought to pass and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means.

(2023-2024): H263 – Bill reported favorably by Committee and referred to the Rules of Two Branches; committee commended ought to pass and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means.

CURRENT LAW

A minimum pricing policy, or price floor, sets a legally mandated lowest price for a good or service, meaning it cannot be sold below that price. For example, section 14 of chapter 94A of the General Laws prohibits milk dealers from selling within the commonwealth milk acquired at a cost less than the price fixed by the commissioner of agriculture to be paid for milk so acquired and distributed.

SUMMARY

This legislation seeks to create a commission to study the economic impact of minimum pricing laws on businesses and residents in the Commonwealth. Said commission shall be co-chaired by the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on Revenue, and shall include designees from the executive office of administration and finance, department of agriculture, and Governor-appointed representatives from industries impacted by minimum pricing laws, as well as individuals with experience in economics, and tobacco and alcohol cessation efforts. Additionally, the commission shall compare and contrast said costs incurred by residents and businesses in the Commonwealth to neighboring New England states. The commission shall report its findings, including any recommendations for legislation, to the General Court within 1 year.