



COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
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Secretary

**Patrick C. Woodcock**  
Commissioner

September 1, 2022

Office of the Clerk of the House  
Honorable Steven. T. James, Clerk  
24 Beacon St. - Room 145  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Honorable Clerk:

Section 10 of chapter 25B of the General Laws, enacted in 2005, requires a biennial report to the Legislature regarding DOER's study and evaluation of the effectiveness of energy efficiency standards in the Commonwealth and to recommend new or increased standards. The law requires that this report describe the timing, scope and findings of this study, and shall recommend to the General Court new or increased efficiency standards, if these standards would serve to promote conservation in the commonwealth and would be cost-effective for the users, as a group, of the covered appliance.

To date, DOER has not conducted such a study, as the energy efficiency standards authorized by chapter 25B were preempted by federal law. However, *An Act Creating a Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy* (St. 2021, c. 8) authorized DOER to promulgate new energy efficiency standards for certain products in the Commonwealth that would not be preempted. DOER exercised that authority by promulgating regulations at 225 CMR 9.00 on

December 24, 2021<sup>1</sup> that increased the energy and water efficiency of a range of products including computers, electric vehicle supply equipment, commercial kitchen equipment, plumbing and irrigation equipment, ventilation fans, water coolers, select spas, and select commercial lights. These regulations represent significant updates to appliance energy efficiency standards in the Commonwealth that will continue to advance our climate goals and provide savings to residents and businesses. DOER is currently in the process of soliciting public comment on guidelines<sup>2</sup> interpreting the regulations. The guidelines would provide clarity to affected industries about DOER's appliance standards enforcement activity. Final guidelines are targeted for release by the end of 2022. Pursuant to section 5 of chapter 25B of the General Laws, the regulations will impact sales of new products on December 24, 2022.

The deadline for this report is less than one year after promulgation of the regulations and prior to the standards having any impact on retail sales. DOER is also still in the process of finalizing details of the appliance standards enforcement process through guidelines. As a result, DOER has no recommendations for additional appliance standards at this time and continues to monitor federal minimum standards, other state activity, and advances in efficiency for energy- and water-consuming products. Once the regulations have been in effect for an appropriate period, DOER will conduct the required study and evaluate the effectiveness of current appliance efficiency standards and report its findings and any recommendations in future pre-session reports.

Sincerely,



Patrick C. Woodcock  
Commissioner

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<sup>1</sup> Available at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/225-cmr-900-appliance-standards-regulation/download>

<sup>2</sup> Available at <https://mass.gov/doc/draft-doer-guidelines-for-implementing-the-appliance-efficiency-standards-at-225-cmr-900/download>