

S.2545-An act to promote a clean energy future

Core provisions:

- Lifts net metering caps
- Raises annual RPS increase from 1% to 3%
- Allows for up to 5,000 megawatts of procurement for offshore wind if it is consistent with achieving our Global Warming Solutions Act requirements
- Allows for additional hydroelectric power procurement if it is consistent with achieving our Global Warming Solutions Act requirements
- Sets 2030 and 2040 statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits
- Establishes statewide energy storage target and provides the administration with tools to achieve this target
- Requires the administration to develop and implement a market-based compliance mechanism on the transportation sector by 2020, the commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors by 2021, and the residential building sector by 2022
- Improves upon the implementation of monthly minimum reliability contributions for new solar customers and delays their implementation

Additionally:

- Requires DEP to track the source and carbon intensity of all transportation fuels
- Prevents electric and gas companies from passing the costs of building or expanding gas pipelines onto customers
- Requires that 100% of the state's fleet purchased after 2026 be zero emission vehicle
- Requires DOT to develop a program to promote private electric vehicle adoption in the commonwealth, with a goal of 25% ownership by 2028
- Promotes solar incentive programs for low-income and environmental justice communities
- Requires the DPU to issue regulations requiring all gas companies to report to the department, in a uniform manner, lost and unaccounted for gas for each year
- Addresses how DPU may contract for pipeline capacity and establishes intervention rights for eligible municipalities, legislators and groups of ratepayers in DPU proceedings
- Directs the Massachusetts state pension fund to divest from thermal coal
- Clarifies the AGO's authority to intervene on behalf of ratepayers in a number of cases, including those involving competitive suppliers
- Creates additional consumer protections with competitive suppliers and improves billing transparency
- Requires Energy Facilities Siting Board to consider health impacts in project evaluations

- Encourages programs to be promoted to ratepayers so they may choose to reduce their electric bills by using electricity at non-peak times
- Requires DOER to establish an incentive program to support non-solar renewable energy resources that are less than 5 megawatts and that qualify for the class I renewable energy portfolio standard
- Allows distribution companies to separately procure for transmission and generation
- Requires the market-based compliance mechanisms to be designed to minimize disproportionate economic impacts upon low-income households
- Allows shared solar projects whose customers are primarily residential customers to receive the full-retail net metering rate and be exempt from any net metering cap that may exist
- Requires that there be at least one air monitoring station within a one-mile radius of any working natural gas compressor station
- Bans any new natural gas compressor station from being located within 0.5 miles of a playground, day care center, church, environmental justice population, or area of critical environmental concern
- Places a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing
- Enables municipalities to enter into long-term, financeable renewable energy contracts on behalf of all residents and businesses in the community, through a democratic process
- Adds language to the Global Warming Solutions Act to direct EEA to consult with the DPH when evaluating the costs and benefits of greenhouse gas reductions relative to adoption of and compliance with the 2020 statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit
- Allows regional school districts to lease land for the purpose of generating renewable energy
- Requires EOEEA to publish a comprehensive energy plan every five years