



ELM

ENVIRONMENTAL LEAGUE
OF MASSACHUSETTS

BILL SUMMARY: H.5060, AN ACT DRIVING CLEAN ENERGY AND ADVANCING OFFSHORE WIND

Offshore Wind

- Gives the Department of Energy Resources responsibility for overseeing the procurement process for offshore wind and selecting bids alongside an independent evaluator.
- When DOER is selecting projects, it must give more weight to project bids that promise manufacturing investments, employment opportunities for low-income and minority workers, supply contracts with minority and women-owned small businesses, job training opportunities, project labor agreements and other environmental and socioeconomic benefits.
- Authorizes MassCEC to award up to \$35 million in annual tax incentives and make expenditures available to offshore wind companies to promote research and innovation, assist entrepreneurs, support port development and site remediation work, and to "stimulate increased financing" for the siting and expansion of permanent offshore wind manufacturing facilities in Massachusetts.
- Lowers remuneration for distribution companies from 2.5 percent to 2.25 percent.
- Authorizes DOER to start soliciting bids from companies that want to build an offshore transmission system.
- Removes price cap for new offshore wind solicitations.
- Creates a commission to assess the impacts of offshore wind on fisheries and directs the Department of Public Utilities to incorporate wildlife monitoring and impact assessments into its oversight of offshore wind.

Other Renewable Energy

- Eliminates the so-called "donut hole" for on-site solar energy net metering, allowing Class I solar systems up to 25kW to be exempt from the cap.
- Excludes biomass from receiving Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) credits. Biomass is still eligible for Alternative Portfolio Standard (APS) credits.
- Permits agricultural and horticultural land to be used to site solar panels as long as they do not impede the continued use of the land for agricultural or horticultural use.
- Directs DOER to catalog all of the energy storage technologies available and make recommendations about how to add more storage capacity to the grid.
- Authorizes DOER to issue solicitations for up to 4,800 gigawatt-hours of storage.
- Creates a clean energy investment fund that the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center can use to help fund clean energy research, build relevant infrastructure and otherwise support growth.
- Gives MassCEC the ability to work with companies focusing on nuclear fusion, networked geothermal, and deep geothermal energy technology.

Transportation

- Calls for the MBTA bus fleet to be all-electric by 2040 and prioritizes deployment on routes that go through underserved communities
- Provides up to \$5000 in rebates, with an additional \$1500 rebate for low-income individuals, for the purchase of electric passenger cars and light duty vehicles less than \$55,000. Offers rebates at point-of-sale.
- Provides rebates of not less than \$4500 for medium and heavy-duty electric vehicles and for those trading in their internal combustion engine vehicle
- Mandates all vehicles sold in the state to be zero-emission starting 2035.
- Requires MasDOT to provide Regional Transportation Authorities (RTAs) with technical and funding assistance to electrify their fleet.
- Creates an interagency coordinating council to develop and implement a plan for deploying EV charging infrastructure in an equitable and accessible manner and establishes a Charging Infrastructure Deployment Fund
- Mandates off-peak rates for EV charging and requires distribution companies to submit proposals for time-of-use rates.
- Requires DPU to promulgate vehicle electrification and GHG emission regulations for transportation network companies like Uber and Lyft.
- Requires MassDOT to install EV charging stations at all service plazas on I-90, at least five MBTA stations, and at least one ferry terminal.
- Requires DESE and DOER to conduct a study looking at the opportunities and challenges of electrifying our school bus fleet.

Decarbonizing Buildings

- Allows ten cities and towns to require fossil fuel-free new construction, but with two important provisos: (1) each community must first meet the 10% affordable housing target set by state law (chapter 40B); and (2) each must exempt life sciences labs and health care facilities from the all-electric requirement.
- Requires large buildings (20,000 sq. ft. and larger) across the commonwealth to report their energy usage annually.
- Ends MassSave incentives to install fossil fuel infrastructure in buildings, except as a backup for an electric heat pump.

Transmission/Grid Modernization

- Establishes a Clean Energy Transmission Working Group to study the best ways to work with other New England states to build new transmission capacity or upgrade existing lines.
- Establishes a Grid Modernization Advisory Council, which will help ensure utilities make proactive and cost-effective transmission upgrades.

Equity/Consumer Protection

- Directs MassCEC to expand its workforce development programs, including the equity programs established in the 2021 Roadmap law.
- Directs MassSave to increase participation by low-income households and renters and mandates more data collection on the effort.
- Creates a new state-funded offshore wind training program for high schoolers.