

## **Contact Information for First Speaker – State Regulatory and Permit Ombudsperson**

Doug Gutro, Director  
Permit Regulatory Office  
Executive Office of Economic Development  
1 Ashburton Place, Room 2101  
Boston, MA 02108  
Email: [douglas.gutro@mass.gov](mailto:douglas.gutro@mass.gov)  
Phone: 857-274-1638  
[www.mass.gov/eoed](http://www.mass.gov/eoed)

# MCTA Legislative/Regulatory Update

## 2025 in the Rear-View Mirror 2026 Preview

December 16, 2025



PO BOX 518 Upton Ma, 01568



# Legislative session - Recap

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- Massachusetts has a two-year legislative session. Session began January 2025 and ends December 31, 2026
  - All bills not acted on in Year 1 automatically get carried over to Year 2.
  - Traditionally, most of the work gets done in year 2 – We are now in Year 2!
  - About 9000 bills were filed in January 2025 – approximately 80 have been signed to law
    - By comparison, 89 laws in 2023 and 407 in 2024
- Election year 2026:
  - Governor – Healey losing support among left (primarily on energy issues) BUT is still likely to win.
  - Legislature – Normally not much change but there are some older legislators that may not run. Filing deadline is May
- New reporting rule 2025 – passed with lots of promise
  - All bills must be reported out by December 3 (instead of waiting to 2<sup>nd</sup> year for backlog).
  - Result – few bills reported out by December 3 – watching every day
  - Most work done after bill leaves original committee
- Not much done after August 1, 2026 (except run for re-election). Now, is a good time to schedule site visits or attend fundraisers/community events as it can make most impact.

# General Mood - Depressing

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- EPA/DEP
  - EPA cutting money to Massachusetts
  - About 20% of DEP positions tied to EPA funding – not counting grants to NGOs
  - Lots of EPA rules being scaled back, delayed, or eliminated – MA can fill some gaps but it is tough
- Energy
  - President Trump has stopped lots of clean energy funding and jobs are in jeopardy
  - Much of Massachusetts GHG goals are tied to enormous subsidies
  - Supply chains and other cost increases have also slowed progress
- Other
  - Lots of layoffs, cutbacks in areas that have sustained MA economy – education, life sciences, biotech, hospitals.
  - Brings lots of uncertainty and inertia. Focus may turn to counteract funding losses.

# Major Legislation

## An Act to protect Massachusetts public health from PFAS

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### History

- 2023-2024
  - Bill filed was expansive, covered lots of industries and was extremely hurtful to businesses
  - MCTA submitted testimony and worked closely with legislators to show them the bill was overly broad, out of step with other states and would have a negative impact on the business community
  - Eventually a slightly better bill went to House Ways and Means where it died
- 2025-2026
  - Refiled bill much more streamlined. Contained new exemptions, a little less bureaucracy.
  - MCTA submitted comments - still concerned about PFAS definition, unnecessary reporting, fees.
  - As of today, the bill is still in Public Health Committee. Expect it to go to Health Care Financing Committee (as it did last session).

# Other Issues

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- Less Active: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), plastics, and chemical bans.
  - Little bit of action but no serious threats – AT THIS TIME
  - Some have moved to Ways and Means but most still in their original Committee
- Climate Superfund Bill – other states have adopted – subject to litigation
  - Would charge oil and gas industry for climate damage
  - Not much DIRECT impact to MCTA members
  - Remember – all costs paid by ratepayer eventually
    - Bill field was expansive, covered lots of industries and was extremely hurtful to businesses
    - MCTA submitted testimony and worked closely with legislators and other coalitions to show the bill was overly broad, out of step with reality and jeopardy would have a negative impact on the business community

Remember – there is still another year to go

IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT COMMITTEES OFTEN REPORT BILLS OUT THAT HAVE NO CHANCE OF PASSING

# Regulatory Update

## Still active

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- DEP Title V Operating Permit Program Fees
  - Potential Fee increase (may be slowed due to new Administration)
- TURA fees
  - Still no proposal but they are very short on funding
- TURA listing of QACs
  - Comment deadline has passed – decision expected soon
- Electric Trucks and Vehicles
  - Mostly on hold due to federal issues but DEP expected to come out with some new programs
  - Need reductions in transportation to meet GHG goal



COMING SOON

# MCTA 2026 Priorities

## Energy – Gas and Electricity

- Issues: Affordability vs. Climate goals
  - Healey ran original campaign on getting off fossil fuels and transitioning to clean energy. Promised it could be done cheaply
  - Stopped gas expansion, committed to offshore wind, hydropower, solar
  - High prices, supply chain issues from COVID and Federal changes have stopped momentum – particularly on offshore wind
- Result - Disaster
  - Mass now has second highest electricity and gas prices in continental US. Bad press every day.
  - Massachusetts will not make our 2030 GHG goals – that means without legislative action, the state could be sued to meet the goals.
  - On cold days oil use is increasing emissions
  - Healey has backed off her “no-gas” approach and now agrees in “all-of-the-above approach” including nuclear – but it is a bit late to have short-term impact
  - Environmentalists not happy (more like the other character in Snow White – Grumpy)

# Planned for 2026

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- MCTA has been active on these issues already, but will redouble efforts in 2026
- MCTA will join the Mass Coalition for Sustainable Energy – a group of about 20 trade association that deals in energy issues – DPU, EOEA/DEP, and legislature
- MCTA is drafting op-ed or similar outreach to “get their name out there” on energy issues and we will help members craft messages for your own outreach to legislators, LTE, or local op-eds, etc.
- Sponsor of WhatsInMyElectricBill.com – website that details costs to member.
- Twitter @MAEnergyBillGuy
- Further outreach as issues get updated

**We need members to raise their hands on this issue**

# 10 Year comparison

Inflation adjusted \$168.37

Avg inflation 2.79%/yr - Avg. Energy inflation 6.69%/yr

Source: WhatsInMyElectricBill.com

## Year over Year Growth Rate by Bill Components for 750 kWhs

National Grid Residential Customer

	Start	End	Duration 10.0 years	
Selected Month	Jul-15▼	Jul-25▼	Total Change	YoY Increase Rate
Base Distribution	\$25.45	\$59.10	\$33.65	8.78%
Additional Distribution Adjustments	\$5.19	\$-5.13	\$10.32	NaN%
Residential Assistance	\$2.93	\$8.62	\$5.69	11.38%
Renewable Energy (Service Provider)	\$0.43	\$19.64	\$19.21	46.50%
Efficiency Programs	\$12.18	\$22.69	\$10.51	6.41%
Distribution Subtotal	\$46.18	\$104.91	\$58.73	8.54%
Transmission	\$19.61	\$43.49	\$23.88	8.28%
Transmission Subtotal	\$19.61	\$43.49	\$23.88	8.28%
Wholesale Power	\$55.70	\$86.72	\$31.02	4.52%
Renewable Energy (Supplier) And Greenhouse Gas Payment	\$13.73	\$23.32	\$9.59	5.44%

- Average residential bill has nearly doubled in 10 years
- Public policy programs (purple) now account for nearly 30% of total bill – in this case about 75 dollars per month.

# MCTA ANNUAL MEETING

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## The Commonwealth at a Crossroads

Thursday February 12, 2026

Registration: 1 pm

Program Start: 1:30 Reception: 4:30

The Publick House 277 Main Street Sturbridge, MA

More details coming

Contact Kathy for sponsorship information or see website at [masscta.org](http://masscta.org)

# Contact



Robert A. Rio, Esq.  
[Robert.rio74@outlook.com](mailto:Robert.rio74@outlook.com)  
[Bob@rarstrategies.com](mailto:Bob@rarstrategies.com)  
Cell: 617-834-6221