

HOUSE No. 3150

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Simon Cataldo

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act advancing clean energy, equity, and innovation within municipal utilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Simon Cataldo</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/10/2023</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/13/2023</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/13/2023</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/21/2023</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/28/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 3150

By Representative Cataldo of Concord, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3150) of Simon Cataldo and others relative to clean energy, equity, and innovation within municipal utilities. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act advancing clean energy, equity, and innovation within municipal utilities.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 23J of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following section:-

3 Section 16. (a) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a
4 separate fund known as the Municipal Utility Equity and Innovation Fund to be administered by
5 the center.

6 (b) The center shall make expenditures from the fund for the purpose of providing grants
7 to support municipal utility projects that advance the deployment of clean energy, energy
8 storage, building decarbonization, distribution capacity, integrated resource planning, the
9 retirement of fossil fuel facilities or peak energy reduction.

10 (c) When deciding which projects will receive grants through this fund, the center shall
11 prioritize projects that explicitly and directly benefit environmental justice populations, as

12 defined in section 62 of chapter 30, low or moderate income housing, as defined in section 20 of
13 chapter 40B or elderly housing, as defined in section 1 of chapter 19D.

14 (d) The center shall prioritize projects that advance new and innovative technologies,
15 strategies and methods to equitably reduce emissions for grants through this fund.

16 (e) The center shall include the fund's activity in the annual report required by section 5.
17 The center shall also annually, not later than October 1 and at least 30 days prior to the
18 expenditure of any funds, submit a plan detailing the planned uses of funds in the upcoming
19 calendar year with the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities and energy and the house
20 and senate committees on ways and means. The center shall hold at least 1 public hearing to
21 solicit stakeholder feedback in the development of this plan

22 (f) Fifty million dollars for the Municipal Utility Equity and Innovation Fund shall be
23 fully incorporated in the general appropriations act not later than fiscal year 2024, subject to
24 appropriation. Any money remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not
25 revert to the General Fund.

26 SECTION 2. Section 11F of chapter 25A of the General Laws, as amended by chapter 8
27 of the acts of 2021 and chapter 179 of the acts of 2022, is hereby further amended by striking out
28 subsection (i) and inserting in place thereof the following 2 subsections:-

29 (i) A municipal lighting plant shall be exempt from the obligations under this section
30 until December 31, 2029, so long as and insofar as it is exempt from the requirements to allow
31 competitive choice of generation supply under section 47A of chapter 164. Beginning January 1,
32 2030, a municipal lighting plant shall meet the obligations set forth in this section.

33 (j) The center shall allocate \$7,500,000 from the Municipal Utility Equity and Innovation
34 Fund, subject to appropriation, to directly support qualifying municipal utilities in meeting the
35 obligations set forth in this section by 2030. A qualifying municipal utility shall be a municipal
36 utility that either: (i) has an annual load that is less than 20,000 megawatt hours; or (ii) serves
37 municipalities with a median household income that is below the state's average median
38 household income.

39 SECTION 3. Section 17 of said chapter 25A, as amended by chapter 179 of the acts of
40 2022, is hereby further amended by striking out subsection (d) and inserting in place thereof the
41 following subsection:-

42 (d) This section shall not apply to municipal lighting plants until the year 2030.
43 Beginning January 1, 2030, a municipal lighting plant shall meet the obligations set forth in this
44 section.