

SENATE No. 1954

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Diana DiZoglio

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 relative to transparency, accountability, and fairness impacting utility rates.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	<i>1/24/2019</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>2/4/2019</i>

SENATE No. 1954

By Ms. DiZoglio, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1954) of Diana DiZoglio, Dylan A. Fernandes, Jason M. Lewis and Julian Cyr for legislation relative to transparency, accountability, and fairness impacting utility rates. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to transparency, accountability, and fairness impacting utility rates.

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 25 of the General Laws shall be amended by inserting the
2 following after Section 18A:

3 Section 18B

4 (a) Public utility companies licensed to do business within the commonwealth shall
5 disclose: the annual total compensation package of the Chief Executive Officer of the operations
6 in the commonwealth even if said operation is a subsidiary of a larger publicly traded utility
7 required by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to disclose
8 employment compensation information of its parent company and not its subsidiaries or
9 divisions.

10 (b) Publicly traded utilities shall disclose the median annual total compensation of all its
11 employees, including any contractors, except the Chief Executive Officer. It shall disclose the
12 ratio of these two amounts. Each company must determine its own median and may not rely on

13 industry estimates or Bureau of Labor Statistics. The calculation shall include only individuals
14 working for the utility who work in the commonwealth. Utilities may seek guidance from the
15 Securities and Exchange Commission's interpretation of calculating a median for purposes of the
16 Dodd-Frank law.

17 (c) All publicly traded utilities subject to taxation in the commonwealth must pay a surtax
18 on the tax paid if the CEO-to-median worker compensation ratio is equal to or above 100:1. If
19 the ratio is equal to or above 100:1 but less than 250:1, the surtax is 10%. If the ratio is equal to
20 or above 250:1 the surtax is 25%. All taxes collected under this section shall be deposited into
21 the Department of Utilities Disaster Mitigation Trust Fund created in GL c. 25 Section 12Q.

22 (d) Any publicly traded utility subject to taxation pursuant to paragraph 3 of this section
23 shall be prohibited from raising rates until such time as the pay ratio is in compliance with the
24 100:1 ratio.