



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR CINDY F. FRIEDMAN

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Chair

JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE FINANCING

Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STEERING AND POLICY

June 4, 2025

Senator Michael J. Barrett

Chair, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

24 Beacon St. Room 312-B

Boston, MA 02113

Representative Mark J. Cusack

Chair, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

24 Beacon St. Room 43

Boston, MA 02113

Dear Chairs Barrett and Cusack,

I write in support of a bill I refiled that is before your committee, S.2284, *An Act relative to the failure to remove existing utility poles*.

According to the most recent Double Pole Report, as of October 2024 there were 18,555 double poles in Massachusetts, an increase of over 5 per cent from two years prior.¹ The term “double pole” refers to a situation where a utility company erects two poles side by side as they transfer electric, telephone, cable, and other wires from one pole to the other. Generally, utility companies create double poles when they make repairs or upgrades that require new poles, or during road construction projects when they must relocate poles.

¹ D.P.U. Docket 03-87, *Double Pole Report for the period between May 1, 2024 and October 31, 2024, on behalf of the following parties: Boston Edison Company, Cambridge Electric Light Company, Commonwealth Electric Company, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, Massachusetts Electric Company, Nantucket Electric Company, Verizon New England Inc. d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts, and Western Massachusetts Electric Company*, <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/dpu/fileroom/#/dockets/docket/8881>.

S.2284 would require a distribution or telephone company that has installed a double pole to complete the necessary wire transfers and pole removal within 90 days of when they installed the pole. If a distribution or telephone company fails to remove the double pole within 90 days, the bill would require the company to pay a \$200 daily fine to the municipality where the double pole is located. For any commercial or industrial construction project expected to take longer than one year to complete, the bill would give distribution and telephone companies six months to remove double poles before paying the fine.

We must address the proliferation and backlog of double poles, and S.2284 would be an effective tool to do so. I therefore respectfully request the committee report this bill favorably as it has done in previous sessions.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia F. Friedman", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Cindy F. Friedman