

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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### **Gobi Bill Would Protect Towns from Electric Bill Surcharges**

BOSTON – A bill filed by **Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** that would protect existing renewable energy projects from being assessed a surcharge was discussed today by the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The bill addresses the ability of utility companies to submit proposals to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) for what has been called a monthly minimum reliability contribution (MMRC). An MMRC is a month surcharge added to the electric bills for those receiving net metering credits.

“I am glad to work to offer protections to our towns so that they are receiving the intended value of their investment,” said Senator Gobi.

Municipalities with existing projects, planned prior to the possibility of a monthly surcharge, would experience cost impacts that were not anticipated, negatively affecting their short and long term budget planning. The bill filed by Senator Gobi would exempt municipal ratepayers and community solar ratepayers from the monthly surcharge. The bill would also exempt low-income ratepayers, however existing law does allow DPU to choose to exempt or modify the monthly surcharge.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Senator Gobi’s office at 617-722-1540.

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