



Legislation Summary:

An Act relative to the clean heat standard

Initial bill number(s): [H.3694](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Representative William J. Driscoll, Jr.

What the bill does, why LWVMA supports or opposes it, and the League position relative to this bill.

This bill would establish a clean heat standard (CHS) for Massachusetts requiring that suppliers increase the share of heating energy from zero emission sources over time. The bill uses the familiar framework of credits as incentives as in the state's Renewable Energy Portfolio (RGGI: since 2003) to increase the state's supply of zero-emissions energy flowing to the grid and our homes. Individuals, organizations or companies that deploy/install systems to reduce building emissions would receive clean energy credits.

The building sector is responsible for approximately 30% of greenhouse gases in MA, second only to emissions from the transportation sector. Decarbonization of the building sector is an essential step in achieving newly mandated emissions' targets for the state. This sector poses a major challenge because it requires retrofitting existing building stock. The need to decarbonize across all sectors of our economy is urgent, based on the latest report from the [International Panel on Climate Change](#); we have much less time to do much more than we are currently doing to reduce emissions.

Why LWVMA supports this bill:

This bill is part of the suite of actions urgently needed to reduce greenhouse gases generated by fossil fuels. A CHS exists for Boston (BERDO 2.0) and was updated recently to meet new emissions targets. Establishing a CHS for the state was a primary recommendation of the Clean Heat Commission in its final report (2022). Enactment of this bill will expedite the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy as credits available for fossil fuel supplies diminish. This bill provides a proven means to get this critical job done.

League Position relevant to support of this bill:

P110, Impact on Issues 2022-2024

"LWVUS believes that climate change is a serious problem that requires immediate domestic and international action. The League believes the US government should move ahead immediately, without waiting for other nations, on initiatives to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases like carbon, methane, and other toxic air pollutants. Such actions will reduce the threat of global climate change, combat air pollution, increase energy security, and create new jobs."