

HOUSE No. 2041

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Josh S. Cutler

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 municipal oversight of utility company vegetation management.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 2041

By Representative Cutler of Pembroke, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2041) of Josh S. Cutler and Mindy Domb relative to municipal oversight of utility company vegetation management. Municipalities and Regional Government.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to municipal oversight of utility company vegetation management.

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. Section 14 of chapter 87 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding
2 the following subsection:-

3 (h) The utility company shall submit a vegetation management plan for local approval in
4 connection with any planned work in a municipality, regardless of any easement or right of way.
5 The vegetation management plan shall be submitted to the local municipality and kept on record
6 by the municipality, and shall be subject to a public comment period by impacted residents. Prior
7 to the commencement of a project by a utility company, the vegetation management plan must
8 receive local approval and any potential negative property damage or impact on property value
9 shall be addressed by the utility company. A utility company in violation of this subsection shall
10 be subject to fees and penalties, determined by the department of public utilities.