



Office of
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Legislators Hold First Meeting of the Municipal Light Plant Caucus

BOSTON- Representative Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury) and fellow legislators met virtually today, April 11th, for the first meeting of the Massachusetts Legislative Municipal Light Plant Caucus for the 193rd Legislative Session, chaired by **Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer)** and **Representative Kimberly Ferguson (R-Holden)**, and co-chaired by **Senator Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth)** and **Representative Jonathan Zlotnik (D-Gardner)**. This introductory meeting served to confirm legislator's membership in the caucus and included brief presentations by members from the Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts (MEAM) who discussed the increasing challenges faced by electric grid service providers in the commonwealth and the ways that Municipal Lights plants are able to work effectively to mitigate these issues. Legislators then discussed the varying pieces of legislation that has been filed this session to support municipal light plants in the state, which includes the following:

- S.2131/H.3699, An Act relative to municipal light plant emergency mutual aid. Filed by Senator Gobi and Representative Ferguson, this legislation importantly clarifies the existing municipal light plant "emergency "mutual aid statute regarding the protection of MLP employees in the event of injury or death while participating in" emergency" mutual aid services provided by its MLP employer.
- H.3142, An act relative to municipal light plants. Filed by **Representative Jay Barrows (R-Mansfield)**, this legislation would allow municipalities and their municipal light board to construct, install, alter, operate, maintain or repair utility poles and conduit, wires, cables, and equipment, and streetlights and traffic signals to the same extent such municipality acting by and through its municipal light board may provide such services within its service territory.
- S. 2139, An act relative to municipal light plants. Filed by **Senator John Keenan (D-Quincy)**, this legislation would expand a municipal light plant's exemption from the public records law, which protects these entities and their information pertaining to trade secrets, competitively sensitive and other proprietary information, to include protection for other plant services like telecommunications and cable services, allowing them to similarly remain competitive with their counterparts.

Representative Kane had this to say on the first meeting and work ahead of the caucus, "I am pleased to return as a member of the Municipal Light Plant Caucus and to represent the interests of Shrewsbury's municipal light plant SELCO and the Shrewsbury residents who benefit from our locally owned light plant. I am excited to continue the work of the caucus this session alongside my colleagues."

For more information on the caucus or the varying pieces of legislation being supported by the caucus this session, please contact Senator Gobi's office by email at Anne.Gobi@MASenate.gov.

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