

H.3404 BACKGROUNDER
WATER AND ENERGY SAVING ACT (WESave)¹
Sponsor: Representative Frank Smizik

H. 3404 will provide significant utility bill savings to consumers and businesses, reduce energy and water use, and ease the strain on the state’s resources. Emissions reductions will contribute toward **Global Warming Solutions Act goals**. The bill sets efficiency standards for common products, including the newest computer standards from California.

What are appliance and equipment efficiency standards?

State appliance and equipment efficiency standards assure a minimum level of energy and water efficiency for household and commercial appliances, providing savings for consumers, businesses, and state and local governments.

In 2025, savings from new state standards would equal nearly 3% of all the electricity used by Massachusetts residents

What’s in it for Massachusetts?

Standards reduce energy and water waste and cut emissions: Massachusetts would see significant resource savings, allowing for better management of energy and water resources. By 2025, this would mean **annual** savings as follows:

Annual savings in 2025	Equivalent to:*
540 GWh of electricity	Electricity consumption of about 65,000 MA households; or Nearly 3% of MA residential electricity consumption*
1.5 trillion Btus of natural gas	Natural gas consumption of 26,000 MA households
4.7 billion gallons of water	Water consumption of about 75,000 MA households
173,000 metric tons of CO ₂	Emissions from 37,000 cars for a year

*based on 2015 MA residential consumption

Residents, businesses, and government save money: Efficiency standards ensure that the products we purchase use less energy and water while preserving quality and affordability. Adopting the latest efficiency standards package will:

- Save Massachusetts residents, businesses, and local and state governments more than **\$160 million annually by 2025**, which can be re-invested into the Massachusetts economy, **spurring job creation**.
- These savings grow to **\$245 million annually** by 2035

¹ Official title: An act relative to expanding resource efficiency in the Commonwealth

- **Short Payback periods and long-term benefits:** Of the standards included in the bill, most have no incremental cost so consumers and businesses start saving right away. Of the remaining standards, the payback period is 2 years or less.

Environmental benefits:

- Energy savings **reduce impact from Pilgrim plant closure.** Savings equivalent to 11% of the annual output from the reactor.
- Massachusetts would be eligible to **earn additional points on the ACEEE Energy Efficiency Scorecard**, strengthening its leadership position (Massachusetts currently #1).
- **Benefits to water infrastructure:** Water savings can reduce strain on water supply and delay the need for water and sewer infrastructure improvement. The plumbing measures are already available on the market at no incremental cost to the consumer.

[Which products are covered?](#)

Products covered: The latest package would expand Massachusetts’s existing appliance, equipment, and lighting efficiency standards to the following new products:

General Appliances

Computers and Monitors
Hot food holding cabinets
Portable electric spas
Water coolers

Plumbing Products

Faucets
Urinals
Showerheads
Toilets

Lighting

High CRI fluorescent lamps

How Products are Chosen: The efficiency levels for products in the latest package are based on standards developed by the federal ENERGY STAR program, EPA’s WaterSense program, and the California Energy Commission. In most cases, most of the products already in the marketplace in each category meet or exceed the efficiency levels specified within proposed package.

[For more Information, contact:](#)

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