



Legislative Policy Committee Newsletter

January 26, 2024
131st Legislative Session

Welcome to the MAP LPC Newsletter.

We will be issuing a newsletter every 2-3 weeks during the active part of the legislative session. Interested in joining the LPC? Contact maplpcchair@nnecapa.org to get information about how to attend the next meeting.

MAP Annual Meeting, Thursday, February 15, 2024, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88427000684?pwd=b0nlN6apCybnNoKNwhzC04R0blWlnF.1>

The MAP Legislative Policy Committee will host the annual meeting for all MAP members. The meeting will be held via ZOOM and feature a discussion of what MAP's legislative priorities should be this session. We want to hear from you! The meeting will begin with remarks from invited speaker Eric Jorgensen, Government Affairs Director, Maine Housing. Attendees will then be asked to identify subject areas of interest and vote on priorities. A summary of recent legislative work by the LPC will also be provided.

LD 337, "An Act to Amend the Regulations of Manufactured Housing to Increase Affordable Housing"

MAP LPC submitted [testimony](#) to the Housing Committee for its public hearing on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 in support of a bill that allows a manufactured home to be allowed where a single family home is allowed. Applicable building codes and zoning would still apply. Manufactured homes meet significant building code requirements and are a primary source of Naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH).

LD 1672, "An Act to Establish an Affordable Housing Permitting Process." Public Hearing January 5, 2024 Committee on Housing.

MAP submitted [testimony](#) neither for nor against and is seeking to engage on revisions to this bill. Primary focus is to make this process an *appeal* if municipal approval for a project is denied rather than a substitute for seeking municipal approval. **The Committee on Housing will hold a work session Friday, January 26th, 9:00 a.m.**



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LD 1976, “An Act to Update the Growth Management Program Laws”

MAP LPC submitted [testimony](#) in opposition to a bill that revises the Growth Management Law for the November 14, 2023 Public Hearing held by the Committee on Housing. A substantive change that prioritizes conservation of environmentally sensitive land and narrows designated growth areas. MAP testified that the current Growth Management Law provides municipal flexibility and recommended that a stakeholder group led by the Bureau of Land Use Planning focus on overhauling the Growth Management “Rule.” Changes to the Rule should focus on modernizing how and how much data collection is needed, allowing towns more resources to have the future planning conversations. MAP supports continuing to process Rule changes as minor technical, which preserves more flexibility. Following the public hearing, the bill is under revision. This bill is being revised and remains before the Housing Committee and is continuing to be monitored. **The Committee on Housing will hold a work session scheduled for Friday, January 26th at 9:00 a.m.**

LD 772, “An Act to Establish a Process to Vest Rights for Land Use Permit Applicants”

MAP LPC submitted [testimony](#) neither for nor against the bill that is intended to limit and provide clarity for vested rights when land use regulations are proposed for revision for the November 14, 2023 Public Hearing held by the Committee on Housing. MAP supports vested rights at the point of a complete application, and also supports “clear rules and fair treatment of those applying” for development approval. **The Committee on Housing has scheduled a work session for January 26, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.**

What’s Coming up? MAP LPC is watching these bills.

LD 602, “An Act to Provide Regional Support to Deliver State and Federal Programs to Cities and Towns in the State,” Committee on Housing, Work session January 26, 2024.

LD 1257, “An Act to Increase Housing Capacity and Protect the Municipal Tax Base and Working Lands,” Committee on Housing, Work Session January 26, 2024.

LD 1505, “An Act to Amend the Maine Cooperative Affordable Housing Ownership Act,” Committee on Housing, Vote OTP-AM January 16, 2024.

LD 1710, “An Act to Establish the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program and Amend the Laws Regarding Tenants and the Municipal General Assistance Program,” Committee on Housing, Work session January 26, 2024.

LD 1721, “An Act to Create Transitional Housing Communities for Homeless Populations in the State,” Voted OTP-AM January 16, 2024.



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LD 1787, “Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Convene a Stakeholder Group Tasked with a Comprehensive Overhaul and Modernization of the State Subdivision Statutes,” Committee on Housing, Work Session January 26, 2024.

LD 1940, “An Act to Promote Consistent Policies with Growth Management Programs in Order to Increase Food Security and Economic Resiliency in Local Communities,” Committee on Housing, Vote Ought Not to Pass Pursuant To Joint Rule 310, January 23, 2024.

LD 2101, “An Act to Strengthen Shoreland Zoning,” Committee on State and Local Government, Public Hearing February 6, 2024.

If you are interested in a specific topic or would like to join the Maine Association of Planners Legislative Policy Committee, contact us at maplpcchair@nneccapa.org.

