

128th Legislature

The MAP Legislative Policy Committee held a kick-off meeting on January 22, 2016, to review the short session, identify 2016 bills of interest (carry overs and introduced bills), and discuss MAP's legislative agenda for this year. This was followed by a summary discussion with MAP members during the MAP General Membership Meeting, also held on January 22nd.

Summary

Given the short session's abbreviated timeframe and shorter list of bills, and the anecdotally noted likelihood that not much will get accomplished this year by the legislature, MAP's LPC identified only a few bills to follow. If the LPC elects to provide testimony for any bill hearings this session, they will be posted on the MAP website. MAP's LPC continues to coordinate with affiliate organizations, including MMA, and currently has the NNECAPA Maine Legislative Liaison on the committee (co-chair Jamie Francomano).

Bills of Interest

Links are provided below for each bill, where information on bill sponsors, hearing dates, committee status, and the complete bill text can be found.

- [LD 193, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects](#)

Carry Over. MAP provided testimony on this bill in 2015. The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$13,871,389, would be used for design and construction of 50 approved bicycle and pedestrian projects currently awaiting funding. The bill was approved, but is currently sitting with the Appropriations Committees.

- [LD 775, An Act To Streamline Judicial Review of Certain Land Use Decisions](#)

Carry Over. MAP provided testimony on this bill in 2015. This is a bill attempting to "streamline" the judicial process for development projects taken to court in order to "kill" the project. MEREDA has been the lead organization on this effort. MAP will continue to track this bill and advocate for an appropriate solution to land use projects being derailed by lawsuits.

- [LD 1500, An Act To Protect and Promote Access to Sport Shooting Ranges](#)

This bill proposes to exempt shooting ranges from amendments to local land use ordinances. Concerns with the bill are that it interferes with home rule and towns' rights and capabilities to regulate this land use locally. MMA staff have expressed a desire for MAP LPC provide comment on this bill at the hearing.

- [LD 1543, An Act To Create Stability in the Control of Pesticides](#)

This bill proposes to exempt agriculture uses and golf courses, from local ordinances otherwise applicable to pesticide storage, distribution and use. As with LD 1500, this bill is also seen as an unnecessary infringement on local land use control. MMA also expressed a desire for MAP LPC provide comment on this bill at the hearing.

- [LD 1586, An Act To Implement Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Remote Participation in Public Proceedings](#)

This bill allows members of a body (e.g. committee) subject to the Freedom of Access Act to participate in meetings of the body through telephonic, video, electronic or other similar means of communication under certain conditions. However, the bill does not allow members of publicly elected bodies to participate in public proceedings unless physically present; initial concerns with the bill surround this exemption of publicly elected bodies. MMA staff have expressed a desire for MAP LPC provide comment on this bill at the hearing.