



MAINE ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Your Real Estate Experts

IMPACT FEE ON VACANT RESIDENCES:

Thank you! Earlier this week in response to our Call for Action, Maine REALTORS® sent more than 1,280 emails to Maine Legislators asking them to oppose LD 1337 “An Act to Increase Housing Availability and Improve Affordability Through a Vacancy Impact Fee”. LD 1337 is an amended legislative bill that will allow municipalities to pass ordinances to impose a fee (tax) on vacant residential property not occupied by a permanent resident. The fees must be used by the municipality to increase the availability or affordability of year-round residential property within the town. [Click Here](#) to read the amended bill.

If you haven't already, **it's not too late to TAKE ACTION!** Search your in-box (check your spam folder) for an email sent on Tuesday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. from info@mainerealtors.com. The system will only let you take action once --- and we need your voices heard!

The bill passed out of the Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Taxation and will move to the House and Senate chambers for votes soon.

We'll continue to be urging Legislators to vote NO on LD 1337 and the amended LD 1337. A local option fee/tax based on how a homeowner uses their property is an infringement of private property rights. These homeowners have already paid a real estate transfer tax, property taxes, and a rental tax if applicable. An influx of federal pandemic relief funds has provided Maine with additional funding for the development of affordable housing. Let's utilize those funds before raising fees/taxes on Maine homeowners.

REALTOR® RALLY (virtual) IS MARCH 8!

MAR's virtual REALTOR® Rally is March 8 and we'll be asking you to TAKE ACTION on that day. Watch your in-box, your mailbox, and social media for more information.

REALTOR® RALLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (virtual):

Join us on Tuesday, March 8 from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.! Hosted by MAR President Madeleine Hill this no-cost, Zoom session will deliver Maine and national legislative updates with panelists to include Hannah McMullen, Esq. MAR's Legal and Government

Quick Links

[Maine Association of REALTORS®](#)

[National Association of REALTORS®](#)

[Maine Listings](#)

[Maine Real Estate Commission](#)

Board Portal Links

[Greater Bangor Association of REALTORS®](#)

[Greater Portland Board of REALTORS®](#)

[Kennebec Valley Board of REALTORS®](#)

[Maine Association of REALTORS®](#)

- Maine Commercial Association
- MAR Only Members
- York County Council

[Mid-Coast Board of REALTORS®](#)

- Acadia Council
- Waldo County Council
- Penobscot Bay Council

[Mountains to Shore Board of REALTORS®](#)

- Androscoggin Valley Council
- Lincoln County Council
- Merrymeeting Council
- Western Maine Council

Affairs Counsel, Andy Cashman, Esq. owner of Resolve Government Relations and MAR's lobbyist, and Kristian Hoysradt, Federal Programs Manager and Political Representative for the National Association of REALTORS®. Happening at the Maine Legislature: remote online notarization, taxation proposals, potential impact fees on vacant residences, removing barriers to accessory dwelling units (ADU's), and promoting energy-efficient affordable housing. From the U.S. Congress: Continuing Resolutions and the National Flood Insurance Program and GSE fees. Learn how this legislation could impact your real estate business!

Register here (no-cost): [Click Here](#)

IT'S UNCLAIMED PROPERTY WEEK IN MAINE:

Each year millions of dollars ("Unclaimed Property") are forwarded to the Maine State Treasurer's office from businesses and organizations that have lost contact with owners of financial assets such as bank accounts, pay checks, etc. [Click Here](#) to see if you have property on this list. There's more than \$290 million waiting to be claimed!

2022 NEW FORM ~ INTERPRETER/TRANSLATOR AGREEMENT:

By MAR Legal Counsel, Hannah McMullen

The Interpreter/Translator Agreement is a new optional form. This is a helpful tool in transactions that require interpreters so that all of the parties know who is involved and what their responsibilities are regarding the translations.

HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND COMING SOON:

The Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) is a \$9.96 billion federal program to help households who are behind on their mortgages and other housing-related expenses due to the impacts of COVID-19. The HAF program is overseen by the U.S. Treasury Department and administered by states, territories, and tribes. Maine's program is currently in development. If you have former clients who may need assistance, [Click Here](#) to learn more.

MAINE LISTINGS NEWS:

Click on the following link to learn about:

- New Training Class – Keeping Up With The Rules
- FREE Upcoming Webinars
- The Importance of Accurate Information in the MLS
- Spring Cleaning Reminder: It's Time to Clear Your Cache!
- Rules & Regulations Quick Refresher Series
- Flexmls Tip of The Week
- NAR Extends Implementation Deadline

Here is the link: [Click Here](#)

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Some content may be commercial in nature.



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