

WHAT'S UP IN AUGUSTA?

Issue 2



December 19, 2022

131st is Underway!

On December 7th all members of the 131st Maine Legislature were sworn into office and will convene again on Wednesday, January 4th at 10am. Cloture for new Legislative Bills (all proposed bill title submissions deadline) will be December 30th.



What are some policies we expect to see proposed in the first session?

[Housing supply](#) continues to be a widespread issue in Maine- we can expect more proposals that go after increased taxes or fees on how real property is used, alongside measures to increase funding for affordable housing programs. We will continue to advocate for no new fees or taxes, and urge the need to build supply.

[Short-term Rentals](#) MAR President-Elect, Paul McKee served on a commission to consider the impact of short term rentals on Maine's housing stock. The Commission produced [18 recommendations](#). While most were positive steps, some were not. MAR was not in favor of a state-wide short term rental registry. We will continue to monitor these emerging issues as they arise. [Read the full report here](#).

[Consumer protection bills/mandates](#) As in sessions past, we can expect proposed mandates regarding certain inspections, permits and disclosures pertaining to various environmental issues or safety concerns.

How do we track and ADVOCATE for our industry?

Every legislative cycle, (2-year) MAR reviews our public policy statement to ensure it reflects the vision of our membership. That survey was distributed via E-News earlier this year. Our [2023-2024 policy statement](#) was recently ratified by your MAR Board of Directors at their December 7th meeting. That document is also distributed to all Legislators and shared publicly. It is our guidebook to state-level advocacy issues and priorities. MAR Legislative Committee together with the Governmental Affairs team regularly meets and discusses new bills that are released weekly. Any bills that impact our industry are reviewed and ranked based on MAR positioning: Support, Oppose or Monitor. Any of those bills are added to a [weekly tracking report](#) (password protected: codeofethics) in which the MAR Board of Directors approves the policy positions at their meetings. Any 1 or 2 level Support or Oppose bills MAR provides testimony as it relates to our public policy statement. [Read the Public Policy Statement Here!](#)

Save the Dates



Tuesday, January 24, 2023
4pm-6pm
Legislative Meet & Greet

Mingle with your State
Senators and Representatives.
Hors d'oeuvres & refreshments
No registration required, just stop by!



Thursday, April 6, 2023
REALTOR® Rally Day

Returning to the Hall of Flags!
Participate in-person at the
State House or virtually

[Senator Inn & Spa](#)
284 Western Ave, Augusta

[Maine State House](#)
Augusta
details *pending*



"MAINE VOTES!"

6300 REALTOR® members in Maine— 90% are registered to vote and took part in the recent elections. Are you unsure if you are registered, or recently moved? [Make sure you are registered to vote](#)

ACT when the time comes:

Help be a part of Maine REALTORS® advocacy efforts: Text **"REALTORS"** to **30644** to opt into REALTOR® Party Mobile alerts to be the first to act with a tap of your phone!

Questions? Feel free to email Claire@mainerealtors.com

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