

WHAT'S UP IN AUGUSTA?

Issue 4



January 23, 2023



Meet your Legislator: An MAR Member Event!

Happening tomorrow: **January 24th from 4pm-6pm at the Senator Inn, In Augusta** for a Legislative Meet & Greet with Maine Senators and House Representatives.

No RSVP required, just stop by, meet and mingle and enjoy some refreshments!

State Budget Talks:

Over the last few weeks, Governor Mills has put forth her **131st legislative budget**. The \$10.3 billion two-year budget continues previous investments in public and higher education, as well as an array of housing and health care initiatives. Mills' budget surpassed her last by \$1 billion. The roughly \$9.4 billion budget, passed in 2021 was enacted on a straight party-line vote.



Housing and infrastructure spending includes \$30 million for rental and housing assistance. Democratic leaders were largely supportive of the governor's proposal, and should they choose to pass along party lines, they would need to do so by April. Republican leaders questioned the proposed increase in spending and the absence of an income tax cut within Mill's budget. [Read more here](#), and check out the release at [Maine.gov](#)



What's Happening in your Community?

As discussed in the January 9th issue-- **L.D. 2003, An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions** is currently in the rule making stage at the

proposed rule for public comments in February. Many municipalities are already having conversations on how to best implement the law to work within their own unique communities, some are considering to what degree they examine their existing ordinances to improve affordable housing options. Are you a part of those conversations? Have you checked to see what your planning and zoning commission is doing? Let us know how we can help!

Local Examples working toward Affordable Housing Solutions in Maine:

- [Kittery: ADU Pilot Grant Program](#)
- [Gorham: Mixed use, higher density zoning changes for development, including accessory apartments](#)
- [Bangor: \\$540,000 Awarded to Penquis' Milford St project: Affordable Housing project to bring 115 units](#)

Save the Dates



May 6-11, 2023

NAR Legislative Meeting

Tentative schedule to be
released February 1st

Washington D.C.
Convention Center



Thursday, April 6, 2023

REALTOR® Rally Day

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

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



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