

February 26, 2024

WHAT'S UP IN AUGUSTA?

2024



2,231 LDs and Counting...

As of Friday, February 23, there have been 2,231 total bills (or LDs -aka Legislative Documents) printed between the first and second sessions of the 131st, and they are NOT done! In comparison to the 130th Maine Legislature, we are now **191** printed bills above that total.

Priority Updates:

MAR's top priority bills have been moving through the legislative process, most have been reviewed in committee, and are waiting to be heard in the Senate and House. Here is one update:

LD 1710: An Act to Establish the Maine Rental Assistance & Guarantee Program & Amend the Laws Regarding Tenants & the Municipal General Assistance Program (MAR 10)- Has become a resolve, (state commissioned study) to examine income and housing voucher discrimination along with other matters as they relate to rental housing in Maine. [Read more here.](#)

Positive Policies for Housing:

LD 1673: An Act to Encourage Affordable Housing and Mixed-use Development by Establishing a Thriving Corridors Program (MAR 3S) - This would establish the Thriving Corridors Program (managed by Dept of Administrative and Financial Services) to assist municipalities with technical support and funding to redevelop high-impact corridors near downtowns, village centers or crossroads into mixed-use, mixed-income, walkable neighborhoods by infilling and redeveloping underutilized land. **Voted Ought to Pass**



LD 1752: Resolve, to Prepare Preapproved Building Types (MAR 3S)- Directs Maine *DACF* and the *Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning* to establish a set of building types that municipalities can adopt as preapproved building types in order to reduce cost and time associated with processing building permit applications. It requires a summary of its progress be submitted no later than November 6, 2024 to the Maine Legislature's committee on

Check out the Most Current Bill Tracking Report



Housing Stigma & Higher Costs?

When thinking about housing options, it's essential to consider ALL types and examine the historical and sociological factors influencing people's *perception of each*. It's also essential to think about how zoning and local ordinances factor into what available housing options a person has to choose from. [Read more here](#)

Rent Control? Rental Registries? Do we want these?

As you know, MAR has been seeking feedback on public policy topics in an effort to better prepare for updates to our [Public Policy Statement](#) later in the year. We still need your input around **different subject areas as they relate to real estate, private property rights and the economy**. Please consider answering these 1-2 question polls to ensure your voice is heard on these important policy topics. (All submissions are anonymous) Click on the button below for our next subject area.



Topic #2: Rent Control & Rental Registries



You can still weigh in on our other topics:

[Topic #1: STR's- What do you think?](#)



Is Insurance Coverage a deal breaker?

Recently, NAR Magazine published a story around Insurance challenges across the country. It noted, "[FEMA, which administers the NFIP, says more than 40% of flood damage claims come from outside high-risk areas on FEMA maps](#)"

Also at the front of the flood insurance discussion is the [approaching March 8th NFIP deadline](#). [Congress must reauthorize in order to continue the program](#), but the **good news** is FEMA would still have authority to ensure the payment of valid claims would continue, should the plan lapse. **The bad news**-NAR estimates that a lapse in coverage would impact an average 40K closings per month, and no policies could begin or be renewed. Stay tuned from NAR should there be a national Call for Action to encourage NFIP's extension.

[Flood Insurance FAQs](#)

[What is NFIP?](#)

[Maine's Emergency Management Agency](#)

Maine Delegation: Urges Crackdown on Illegal Marijuana Operations

Lately there has been a lot of noise around the arrests and seizures of several illegal marijuana grow operations taking place in residential properties across Maine. On January 30th, Senators Collins and King along with Representative Pingree and Golden [sent this letter to the US Department of Justice](#).

Regulatory Happenings:

[Maine DEP- Comment Period for Vision for the Clean Water](#)

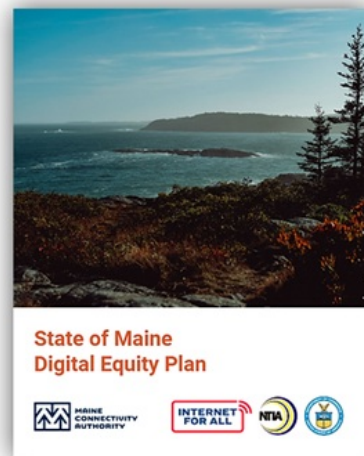
Act Requesting public comment on the Prioritization Framework document the Maine "DEP has developed in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program Vision for 2022-2032. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act covers assessing if waters (rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, etc.) meet water quality standards, compiling a list of impaired waters (waters that do not meet water quality standards), and developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to restore those impaired waters." [Read More Here](#), Public Comments must be submitted by March 18th 5pm.

Maine Connectivity Authority- Maine leads in the U.S.- aims to close 'digital divide'

Maine is the first state in the U.S. to be approved by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)! The Plan outlines the steps to expand access to high-speed, reliable internet and break down barriers to connections, in particular those in more remote locations with limited access. This approval is the first step for Maine to qualify for Digital Equity Act funding, resulting in an estimated allocation between \$12 million and \$14 million.

[Read the full release here.](#)

Maine Connectivity Authority now has [Infrastructure Project Grants](#) available for **new and existing "community anchor institutions (CAIs)"** such as libraries, community centers, affordable housing developments, municipal or tribal buildings, and other gathering places that enable workforce training, education, and health monitoring for people most impacted by the digital divide.



Super Tuesday is Almost Here:

The Presidential Primary election is just over 1 week away! Ensure you know the candidates and where/how you can vote.

2024 Election FAQs

Learn more here about changes to voting in Maine!

Check your status and voting location here.



March 5, 2024: Presidential Primary Election

April 2, 2024: Maine REALTOR® Rally Day ***Details Coming Soon!***

May 4 - 9, 2024: NAR "RLM" Meeting in D.C.
Registration is Open

June 11, 2024: State Primary Election





TO **ENGAGE** from *anywhere*, Please text the word "**REALTORS**" to **30644**, to activate
REALTOR® Party Mobile Alerts.

I ACT

#REALTORParty

Questions?

Claire Berger, MAR Communications & Government Affairs Manager



Maine Association of REALTORS® | 19 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330

[Unsubscribe tanya@mainerealtors.com](mailto:tanya@mainerealtors.com)

[Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by byclaire@mainerealtors.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!