

March 11, 2024

WHAT'S UP IN AUGUSTA?

2024



REALTOR® Rally



April **2nd**
Maine State House
9am-1pm

Rally on April 2nd in Augusta- Early Details:

Join your fellow REALTORS® on April 2nd starting at 9am at the [Governor Hill Mansion](#) to kick start MAR's day of advocacy! There are some BIG issues we will be continuing to engage on and ask for your help!

The Virtual element of Rally Day will be in the days leading up to and on April 2nd. Stay tuned for a statewide Call for Action where you will be able to send a message to your Senator and Representative around priority issues being discussed at the [Maine State House](#)

Here's a quick look at what to expect:

7:30am Call For Action Request delivered to your inbox- Please **ACT** and send a pre-written message to your Legislators. (You will also be able to connect with them in-person if you plan to attend Rally) We encourage you to send a message in addition to live attendance because makes a HUGE impact!

9am: Governor Hill Mansion "Pre-Party" Issues Briefing, Meet some of your REALTOR® Legislators, Q&A with MAR Government Affairs Team, prepare cards to Legislators and learn about the issues.

10:30am-1pm: Hall of Flags, Maine State House

Tour the State House, visit the House and Senate chambers and watch our government in action, network with REALTORS® and Legislators. We will have Guest Speakers and lunch available.

RSVP
Now!

The 131st has less than 1 month left!

Slated to adjourn in early April, the 131st has a number of busy days ahead! Most of the Legislature's committees have a "report out" date of March 22nd. That means they need to have all public hearings and work sessions completed and have recommendations out to both the House and Senate on where the bills should land.



What are we 'Rallying' About?

Check out the [REALTOR® Rally Landing page](#) you can register to attend here and learn about the policy proposals impacting your business.

Here is the list of the top priority bills we are monitoring and engaging on.

Check out the Most Current Bill Tracking Report

Legislative Bill Count:

As of Friday, March 8th there were 2261 Legislative Documents (LDs) printed for the 131st Maine Legislature. WOW!



New Topic- Sustainability:

As you know, MAR has been seeking feedback on public policy topics in a 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 #3: Sustainability



You can still weigh in on our other topics:

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

[Topic #2: Rent Control & Rental Registries](#)



More Electricians in Maine?

On March 6th, the Maine Legislature voted to pass [LD 2133: An Act to Expand the Use of Career and Technical Education Centers in the Development of the Electrician Workforce](#). This bill will streamline the pathway for journeyman-in training electricians to obtain their required education and enter into the workforce. This is good news for Maine!

NAR Engagement on Industry Issues:

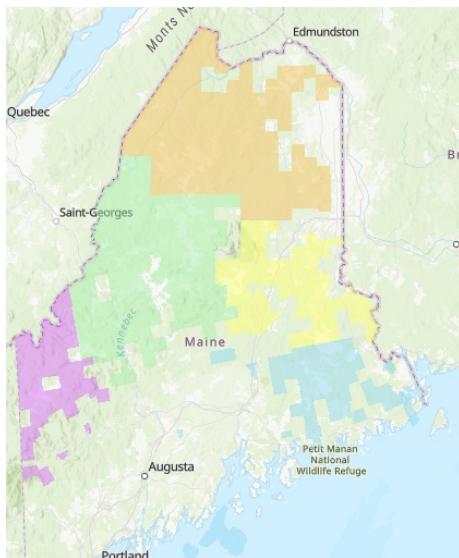


VA Minimum Property Requirements

NAR [submitted a letter](#) in response to an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs around minimum property requirements (MPRs). The MPRs are intended to ensure that VA borrowers have safe and secure housing. **However**, REALTORS® have observed that they can be/are perceived by many as being onerous, unnecessary, and push costs onto sellers. As a result, many sellers avoid buyers using VA financing putting these buyers at a disadvantage relative to buyers using financing from the GSE's (Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac). NAR recommended modeling the

VA's minimum standards similar to those of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. This change would eliminate the misperception and the competitive disadvantage it creates. It would also help create a market-wide standard moving forward.

NFIP Extended [National Flood Insurance Program](#) has been extended from March 8th deadline to March 22nd, stay tuned...



LUPC Request for Comment on STRs & ADUs:

[The Land Use Planning Commission \(LUPC\)](#) has issued a request for comments around 2 projects as they relate to zoning management in unorganized and deorganized areas of the State, including townships and plantations:

[Short Term Rentals- Draft Proposed Rules 2.28.2024](#)

[ADU's - Draft Proposed Rules around Accessory Structures](#)

Comment Period and Contact Information: Short-term Rental rulemaking comment deadline: April 17, 2024. Submit comments to: stacy.benjamin@maine.gov or by mail to: Maine Land Use Planning Commission, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022.

ADU rulemaking comment deadline: April 1, 2024. Submit comments to: Timothy.Beaucage@maine.gov or by mail to: Maine Land Use Planning Commission, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022.



April 2, 2024: Maine REALTOR® Rally Day
[Register Now!](#)

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**.

Questions?

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