All Hands On Deck!
A call to action for Municipal Mutual Aid

While MMA’s platform bills were submitted before the December 30, 2022 cloture date, many have only recently been printed. As the paper flows out of the Revisor’s Office, it is immediately scheduled for a public hearing, frequently reassigned to committees not referenced on the printed bill, and rapidly scheduled for work sessions. On Thursday, one of MMA’s platform bills, LD 1493, An Act to Increase Affordable Housing by Expanding Tax Increment Financing, sponsored by Rep. Raegan LaRochelle of Augusta, had a late-night work session, just a short week after the public hearing.

Working with MaineHousing, the amendments submitted to the Taxation Committee during the work session further clarify the housing projects that would qualify for a newly created Pine Tree Housing Zone, allow the retained value from any Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district to be used to incentivize the rehabilitation, preservation, expansion or construction of multi-unit family housing projects anywhere in a municipality, and authorize the use of TIF revenues to cover the expenses associated with bonds necessary to support the proposed housing project.

Why Does It Matter?
Currently, the retained value created from either an economic or housing TIF can only be used to bond for infrastructure projects inside the district. While it is the municipal legislative body that denies or approves and repays a municipal bond, the Maine Department of Economic Development has statutory veto authority even without direct skin in the game. This is problematic as most infrastructure investments in the district are paid for by the developer, while the municipality must bond separately to connect those resources to infrastructure outside the district.

As the retained value from economic development districts grows more robustly than those in affordable housing TIF districts, the ability to bond early for the former would remove the barrier that prevents many municipalities from being able to leverage the tool. It’s a goose and the golden egg situation.

Anywhere there is existing multifamily housing and a low to moderate income reality for the area’s residents, the newly created Pine Tree Housing Zone overlay could provide a small developer the ability to receive a sales tax exemption on the materials and resources used for the project in exchange for keeping the rent or sales price in an attainable range for low to moderate income households. The municipality could use TIF retained value or a TIF financed infrastructure bond to further help the developer meet bank required project thresholds necessary for financing.

The bill will be scheduled for another work session soon, as it was tabled at 7:30 p.m. with few stakeholders available to weigh in. Municipal leaders in communities with TIF districts and old multi-unit dwelling neighborhoods are urged to call or write the members of the committee ASAP to discuss how this proposed tool would help advance the state’s housing creation and development goals and provide much needed housing in your communities.

(continued on page 2)

Do you favor school budget validation referendums?
Check Yes or No.

Public hearings were held on bills that would alter the process of school budget validation referendums and require municipal input into school budgets in the Education and Cultural Affairs committee on Tuesday afternoon.

Bill sponsor, Rep. Ann Marie Mastraccio of Sanford, presented LD 1370, An Act to Simplify the School Budget Validation Process, along with an amendment to the bill. The amended bill intends to remove the state requirement to hold a school budget validation referendum and instead allow communities to opt in to consider using a school budget validation referendum. The results of the opt in vote are considered valid if 25% of the voters who voted in the last gubernatorial election participate in the election. If the number of voters is insufficient, then the proposal to use the budget validation process fails.

(continued on page 6)
Helping Those Who See The Worst.

Somewhat ironically, another of MMA’s major policy priorities, LD 1857, An Act to Create the Public Safety Health and Wellness Reimbursement Fund to Benefit Public Safety Workers and Volunteers, sponsored by Rep. Lynn Copeland of Saco, trapped in the Revisor’s 2,000 plus bill vortex since January, hit the downtown riptides Tuesday, while municipal first responders along the Kennebec River evacuated, monitored, and sandbagged their inundated streets.

Originally assigned to the Taxation Committee, the bill was immediately reassigned to the Health and Human Services Committee and scheduled for a public hearing next Friday, May 12, at 10:30 a.m.

Why is it important?

Leveling the cost playing field.

The proposal establishes a statewide reimbursement fund to offset the cost of providing public safety employees, including volunteer first responders, access to a specially designed health and wellness program that mitigates both the physical and mental health effects that the repeated exposure to traumatic events has on these professionals.

Specifically, the proposal would allow public safety agencies to receive reimbursement for the costs of providing career informed mental health, wellness, and specialized cardiac screening for risk factors unique to public safety employees, which would be funded by dedicating 5% of the gross sales and excise tax revenue generated by adult use cannabis establishments to the program.

First responders (e.g., law enforcement, fire, EMS, dispatch, and corrections) across the state work for agencies and associations with unequal local resources. Often, they are volunteers, per diem, occasional or part-time employees, and may have employment roles in other communities. While those individuals are covered under Maine’s workers’ compensation laws, one key piece is that not all services have the ability to provide additional and specially oriented mental wellness programs or even provide health insurance for their volunteers. However, via the path proposed in LD 1857, all public safety services providers would be afforded the opportunity to connect their members with career specific culturally competent providers and obtain base level screenings and risk assessments before any health impacts of public safety service are encountered.

Linking both mental wellness and cardiac risks connects the head and heart in the care of first responders, who have significantly elevated risks because of repeated and prolonged exposure to unnatural traumatic events. Unfortunately, to date the only policies emerging from the halls of Augusta have focused on workers’ compensation related presumptions for workplace injury. The Legislature’s “after the injury occurs” policy focus is effectively forcing communities to pay for expensive career ending or life ending care, and associated attorneys’ fees at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars compared to the cost of the preventive screenings.

For non-fulltime employees, most health insurance does not cover baseline cancer screenings, or evaluate cardiac inflammatory levels without a qualifying health need. All first responders — regardless of department size — face the same exposure to repeated traumatic events and all have the same associated health risks as a result. This bill provides universally available screenings, using a revenue stream not yet tapped to support the very individuals the cannabis adult use program impacts, and allows all services, including volunteers, to offer their first responders a real benefit for their service and improves longevity.

THIS BILL NEEDS A STRONG VOICE – YOUR VOICE!

Testifying during the initial public hearing for this bill is vital, but so is the need to call and submit testimony for this bill to be fully funded on the Special Appropriations Table at the end of the legislative session.

Showing up in person sends a loud message, testifying via Zoom is always possible, and submitting written testimony is also helpful. The Health and Human Services Committee is in Room 209 of the Burton Cross Building behind the dome.

How to get a Zoom link and testify.

From this link: https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/ select the “Public Hearing” button. At the bottom of the screen, select “Health and Human Services” from the drop-down menu, then select Friday, May 12, at 10:30 a.m. from the “Choose Date” menu.

This changes the screen again and displays a further list of bills scheduled to have a hearing that day. Select the button next to LD 1857, An Act to Create the Public Safety Health and Wellness Reimbursement Fund to Benefit Public Safety Workers and Volunteers and just below that check the small check box next to “I want to testify electronically over Zoom”. At this point you can upload written testimony if you intend to read it or submit it later through the same portal. You need to include all your contact information and city/ town or organization and certify you’re human and then hit “Submit/Register” at the bottom.

You should receive an email not only confirming whether you have uploaded testimony but also the Zoom link in two separate emails.

How to submit written testimony.

Follow the same procedures as above to upload the written comments, but leave the box next to “I want to testify via Zoom” unchecked. You may also email the committee clerk, analyst, and chairs directly at HHS@legislature.maine.gov, Anna.Broome@legislature.maine.gov, Joseph.Baldacci@Legislature.Maine.gov, and Michele.Meyer@Legislature.Maine.gov.

While doing the right thing for Maine’s first responders won’t get you a “Get Out of Jail Free” card, it just may guarantee they are still there when you do need them.
### HEARING SCHEDULE

For the week of May 8, 2023

#### MONDAY, MAY 8

**Criminal Justice & Public Safety**  
Room 436, State House, 9:00 a.m.  
Tel: 287-1122

- LD 624 – An Act to Prohibit Government Officials from Maintaining Records Related to Firearms Owners
- LD 1451 – An Act to Prohibit State and Local Enforcement of Federal Firearms Laws

**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Room 216, Cross Building, 11:00 a.m.  
Tel: 287-4149

- LD 718 – An Act to Increase the Beneficial Reuse of Construction and Demolition Debris
- LD 1330 – Resolve, to Ensure Compliance by the State with an Agreement Regarding the Operation of the Landfill in Old Town
- LD 1660 – An Act to Provide That Advanced Recycling Facilities Are Subject to Solid Waste Regulation and That Advanced Recycling Does Not Constitute Recycling

**Health & Human Services**  
Room 209, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m.  
Tel: 287-1317

- LD 1814 – An Act to Reduce Mercury in the Environment by Phasing Out Certain Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- LD 1839 – An Act to Study a Permitting Process for and Establish a Moratorium on Certain Tail Structures
- LD 1845 – An Act to Regulate Outdoor Lighting

**Criminal Justice & Public Safety**  
Room 436, State House, 1:00 p.m.  
Tel: 287-1122

- LD 179 – An Act to Provide Support for Restorative Justice Practices in Maine
- LD 288 – An Act Concerning Housing and Support Services for At-risk Youth and Youth Who Have Committed Juvenile Crimes
- LD 630 – An Act to Ensure Rural Law Enforcement Services in Maine

**Education & Cultural Affairs**  
Room 208, Cross Building, 1:00 p.m.  
Tel: 287-3125

- LD 913 – An Act to Support First Responders
- LD 919 – An Act to Facilitate Employment in the Field of Emergency Medical Services
- LD 931 – An Act to Expand the State’s Workforce by Supporting the Transition from Incarceration to Employment
- LD 1133 – An Act Regarding Emergency Management Funding for Municipal Shelters

**Energy, Utilities & Technology**  
Room 211, Cross Building, 1:00 p.m.  
Tel: 287-4149

- LD 1702 – Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Improve the Educational Experience of People Who Are Resettling in Maine

**Transportation**  
Room 126, State House, 1:00 p.m.  
Tel: 287-4148

- LD 1822 – An Act to Amend the Specialty License Plate Laws and Extend the Moratorium on Approval of Specialty License Plates and Remove the Authority of Municipalities to Issue Driver’s Licenses

**Joint Select Committee on Housing**  
Room 216, Cross Building, 1:00 p.m.  
Tel: 287-4149

- LD 1752 – Resolve, to Prepare Preapproved Building Types
- LD 1787 – Resolve, to Designate the Route 15 Bridge Located in the Town of Kenduskeag the William S. Pullen Bridge

#### TUESDAY, MAY 9

**Criminal Justice & Public Safety**  
Room 436, State House, 1:00 p.m.  
Tel: 287-1122

- LD 179 – An Act to Provide Support for Restorative Justice Practices in Maine
- LD 288 – An Act Concerning Housing and Support Services for At-risk Youth and Youth Who Have Committed Juvenile Crimes
- LD 630 – An Act to Ensure Rural Law Enforcement Services in Maine

**Taxation**  
Room 127, State House, 1:00 p.m.  
Tel: 287-1552

- LD 1747 – An Act to Return the Sales Tax Rate to 5 Percent

**Transportation**  
Room 126, State House, 1:00 p.m.  
Tel: 287-4148

- LD 1822 – An Act to Amend the Specialty License Plate Laws and Extend the Moratorium on Approval of Specialty License Plates and Remove the Authority of Municipalities to Issue Driver’s Licenses

**Education & Cultural Affairs**  
Room 208, Cross Building, 1:00 p.m.  
Tel: 287-3125

- LD 913 – An Act to Support First Responders
- LD 919 – An Act to Facilitate Employment in the Field of Emergency Medical Services
- LD 931 – An Act to Expand the State’s Workforce by Supporting the Transition from Incarceration to Employment

**Joint Select Committee on Housing**  
Room 216, Cross Building, 1:00 p.m.  
Tel: 287-4149

- LD 1752 – Resolve, to Prepare Preapproved Building Types

**Labor & Housing**  
Room 202, Cross Building, 1:00 p.m.  
Tel: 287-1331

- LD 1756 – An Act to Protect Employee Freedom of Speech

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

**Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry**  
Room 214, Cross Building, 9:00 a.m.  
Tel: 287-1312

- LD 1823 – An Act to Respect and Protect the Right to Food
- LD 1881 – An Act Regarding Compensation Fees and Related Conservation Efforts to Protect Soils and Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat from Solar and Wind Energy Development and High-impact Electric Transmission Lines Under the Site Location of Development Laws

**Education & Cultural Affairs**  
Room 208, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m.  
Tel: 287-3125

- LD 1799 – An Act to Expand Maine’s High-quality Early Learning and Care for Children

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by Increasing Public Preschool Opportunities in Communities

**Energy, Utilities & Technology**
Room 211, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-4143
LD 1223 – An Act to Clarify Cost Allocations and Insurance in the Joint Use of Public Utility Equipment

**Environment & Natural Resources**
Room 216, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-4149
LD 1847 – An Act to Modify the Visual Impact Standards for Offshore Wind Port Development

**Taxation**
Room 127, State House, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1552
LD 283 – An Act to Make Technical Changes to the Maine Tax Laws
LD 1538 – An Act to Provide Tax Benefits to Persons Constructing Accessory Dwelling Units
LD 1644 – An Act to Permit the Expenditure of Accumulated Tax Increment Revenues

**Labor & Housing**
Room 202, Cross Building, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-1331
LD 1746 – An Act to Require Responsible Contracting Practices for Public Construction Projects

**Taxation**
Room 127, State House, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-1552
LD 1268 – An Act to Provide for a Local Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Exemption for Qualifying Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons

**THURSDAY, MAY 11**

**Health & Human Services**
Room 209, Cross Building, 10:30 a.m.
LD 1857 – An Act to Create the Public Safety Health and Wellness Reimbursement Fund to Benefit Public Safety Workers and Volunteers

**Joint Select Committee on Housing**
Room 216, Cross Building, 9:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-4149
LD 492 – An Act to Repurpose Vacant Shopping Mall and Retail Space to Mixed-use Housing and Retail

**FRIDAY, MAY 12**

**Health & Human Services**
Room 209, Cross Building, 10:30 a.m.
LD 1857 – An Act to Create the Public Safety Health and Wellness Reimbursement Fund to Benefit Public Safety Workers and Volunteers

**Joint Select Committee on Housing**
Room 216, Cross Building, 9:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-4149
LD 492 – An Act to Repurpose Vacant Shopping Mall and Retail Space to Mixed-use Housing and Retail

(continued on page 5)
The insurance of another attaching entity or contractor.

An owner or attaching entity may not dictate the terms, type, or level of insurance of the attaching entity to carry insurance but the pole owner may require an attaching entity to comply with safety, or engineering or construction codes or standards or the cost of insurance of the attaching entity. This bill clarifies that an owner of a utility pole is responsible for costs associated with municipal attachments, costs of a modification associated with accommodating an attachment to the pole except for costs associated with municipal attachments, costs of a modification of an attachment to comply with safety, or engineering or construction codes or standards or the cost of insurance of the attaching entity. This bill also clarifies that a pole owner may require an attaching entity or a contractor of the attaching entity to carry insurance but the pole owner or attaching entity may not dictate the terms, type, or level of the insurance of another attaching entity or contractor.

This bill redefines recycling as the series of activities by which material is collected, transported, sorted, and processed for use as an industrial feedstock in place of raw materials to manufacture new products with minimal loss of material quality and quantity. The definition further provides that excluded from the definition recycling is energy recovery or energy generation by any means, including, but not limited to, advanced recycling, combustion, gasification, incineration, pyrolysis, solvolysis, hydropyrolysis thermal desorption, waste-to-energy,

Energy, Utilities & Technology

LD 1223 – An Act to Clarify Cost Allocations and Insurance in the Joint Use of Public Utility Equipment (Sponsored by Sen. Grohoski of Hancock Cty.)

This bill clarifies that an owner of a utility pole is responsible for costs associated with accommodating an attachment to the pole except for costs associated with municipal attachments, costs of a modification of an attachment to comply with safety, or engineering or construction codes or standards or the cost of insurance of the attaching entity. This bill also clarifies that a pole owner may require an attaching entity or a contractor of the attaching entity to carry insurance but the pole owner or attaching entity may not dictate the terms, type, or level of the insurance of another attaching entity or contractor.

LD 1828 – An Act Regarding Enhanced 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (Emergency) (Sponsored by Sen. LaFountain of Kennebec Cty.)

This emergency bill: (1) requires a public safety answering point (PSAP) to provide the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau notice at least one year prior to discontinuing service to a municipality; unless the bureau authorizes a shorter period for notification; (2) authorizes the bureau to establish an additional PSAP on a determination that an it is necessary to ensure public safety and access to E-9-1-1 services; and (3) requires the bureau to conduct a study assessing whether PSAP can be more efficiently managed to ensure stability of the system.
The Maine School Management Association (MSMA) and MMA were both in support of the bill since it helps to ensure that the result is representative of community desire and that it could arguably entice more people to attend the budget meetings to be better informed on the school budget. It was mentioned that municipalities often attend a school budget meeting where they have an opportunity to ask questions and provide input on the budget as it’s being developed.

Opposition came from the Maine Town and City Clerks Association (MTCCA) who admittedly had not yet seen the amendment and prefaced the testimony with the caution that their position could change. MTCCA’s testimony outlined the concern that if a referendum was required, a ballot change could also be required, leading to additional expenses to the municipality. There was also concern among their members regarding the language in the bill that discusses the validity of the results.

As written, the vote may not be considered valid if the number of voters does not meet the threshold. This could increase voter confusion and since voter turnout for special elections is low, there is concern that the threshold would not be met.

A similar initiative, LD 1748, An Act to Reform the School Budget Referendum Process by Limiting the Circumstances in Which Referenda Occur, sponsored by Rep. Mana Abdi of Lewiston, also received a public hearing. This bill would eliminate the state requirement to hold a school budget validation referendum unless a written petition is signed by 25% of the number of voters who voted in the last gubernatorial election.

A former member of the Lewiston school committee testified in favor of the bill adding that the threshold of 25% is high, but necessary to preserve the integrity of the budget validation referendum process.

MMA rose in opposition to the measure since local leaders feel that this decision would be best left locally to fulfill the will of their residents. Communities prefer local control and are more appreciative of the measure proposed in LD 1370 than the avenue taken in LD 1748.

Testimony neither for nor against LD 1300. A motion of ought not to pass prevailed with a unanimous vote.

Do you favor school budget validation referendums? ...cont’d

IN THE HOPPER (cont’d)

waste-to-fuel or any other chemical or molecular conversion process.

LD 1845 – An Act to Regulate Outdoor Lighting (Sponsored by Rep. Osher of Orono)

This bill regulates outdoor lighting fixtures by imposing with some exceptions, certain requirements related to the installation and use of outdoor lighting fixtures, including: (1) prohibiting a person from placing or installing an outdoor lighting fixture unless the fixture is shielded to direct the light downward; (2) providing that if an outdoor lighting fixture is not shielded it may not be operated between 11 p.m. and sunrise; and (3) prohibiting the installation of outdoor lighting fixtures that use a mercury vapor lamp. The bill also authorizes municipalities to adopt ordinances that include the same or more restrictive requirements and provides that where there is no such ordinance the Department of Environmental Protection has authority to enforce the requirements.

Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

LD 221 – An Act Regarding Airboat Noise (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich)

This bill extends the repeal date of the law governing airboat noise limits to September 7, 2025.

Joint Select Committee on Housing

LD 1673 – An Act to Encourage Affordable Housing and Mixed-use Development by Establishing a Thriving Corridors Program (Sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport)

This bill establishes the Thriving Corridors Program within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services in order 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.
Right to Food. The Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee will hold a public hearing on LD 1823, An Act to Respect and Protect the Right to Food on Wednesday, May 10 at 9:00 a.m. in room 214 of the Cross Office Building. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Craig Hickman of Kennebec County, in part, amends the statutes regulating food and food sovereignty by: (1) applying the provisions of the Maine Food Sovereignty Act to all local food ordinances, including those in place before the Act was enacted; (2) establishes the Maine Vegetable Garden Protection Act to allow a person to cultivate vegetable gardens on the person’s own property or with permission on the private property of another and prohibits interference by the State or a political subdivision; (3) provides that local ordinances may be adopted to regulate matters related to the cultivation of vegetable gardens, including height, setback, water use, fertilizer use or the control of invasive or unlawful species, as long as the ordinance does not have the effect of prohibiting the cultivation of vegetable gardens; and (4) authorizes municipalities to develop and implement programs to establish edible landscaping, food forests and community gardens in public spaces, including municipally owned properties, rights-of-way, school grounds, parks and parking lots.

Tree Growth. The Taxation Committee will conduct a public hearing on LD 1685, An Act to Increase Acreage Eligibility and Change Requirements for Filing Plans Under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law on Thursday, May 11 at 1:00 p.m. in room 127 of the State House. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Ann Matlack of St. George at the request of municipal assessors, amends the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law by increasing the acreage eligibility requirement from 10 to 25 acres of forested land beginning April 1, 2025. The bill authorizes municipal assessors and the State Tax Assessor to retain copies of required forest management and harvest plans and with assistance from the Director of the Bureau of Forestry to determine the sufficiency of a plan to meet the requirements of the law. The bill also specifies that the retained forest management and harvest plans are confidential and not public records.

IN THE HOPPER (cont’d)

LD 1752 – Resolve, to Prepare Preapproved Building Types (Sponsored by Sen. Pouliot of Kennebec Cty.)
This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning to contract with an appropriate consultant to establish a set of building types that municipalities may adopt as preapproved building types to reduce the cost and time associated with processing building permit applications. The bill also requires the department to submit a report no later than November 6, 2024 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters, which is authorized to report out legislation in 2025.

LD 1787 – Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Convene a Stakeholder Group Tasked with a Comprehensive Overhaul and Modernization of the State Subdivision Statutes (Sponsored by Rep. Ducharme of Madison)
This resolve requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in coordination with the Department of Environmental Protection, to convene a stakeholder group, including municipal officials, to review and recommend a comprehensive overhaul and modernization of the subdivision laws. The departments must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and on Environment and Natural Resources, which are authorized to report out legislation in 2024.

State & Local Government

LD 1825 – An Act to Clarify Licensing Jurisdiction for Manufactured Housing Communities (Sponsored by Speaker Jackson of Aroostook Cty.)
This bill requires a municipality to accept a license issued by the Manufactured Housing Board as evidence a manufactured housing community meets all requirements to operate. The bill also provides that a municipality may not charge any additional fees for a manufactured housing community to operate or a fee for any type of permit for manufactured housing if the installation is governed by rules of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development or the Manufactured Housing Board.

Taxation

LD 1268 – An Act to Provide for a Local Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Exemption for Qualifying Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons (Sponsored by Rep. Doudera of Camden)
This bill allows a municipality to provide an excise tax exemption for one vehicle owned, separately or jointly, by a resident of that municipality who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer emergency medical services person, as long as the vehicle is used to perform those volunteer duties. The bill also authorizes municipalities to impose additional eligibility criteria, including, but not limited to, duration.
of service, minimum call response, and training requirements.

LD 1538 – An Act to Provide Tax Benefits to Persons Constructing Accessory Dwelling Units (Sponsored by Sen. Brenner of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill allows for reimbursement by the State for up to years of a percentage of property taxes paid due to an increase in the taxes because of the construction of an accessory dwelling unit, which is defined as an attached or detached unit on the same lot or parcel as an existing or proposed single-family or multifamily residence that allows for independent living for one or more persons and contains kitchen and bathroom facilities and sleeping accommodations.

LD 1644 – An Act to Permit the Expenditure of Accumulated Tax Increment Revenues (Sponsored by Rep. Salisbury of Westbrook)

This bill governs the process for the use of tax increment funds that remain after the term of a development district expires, including: (1) payment of debt on service bonds and notes used to fund district-related projects; (2) payment of approved costs described in the development program for up to three years after the expiration date; or (3) a revenue transfer to the general fund with a corresponding adjustment to the municipality’s assessed value.

LD 1739 – An Act to Extend Development District Tax Increment Financing Districts (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth)

This bill allows a development district that is a tax increment financing district to be extended an additional 30 years if the district uses at least 51% of state tax increment revenue for affordable housing or transit-oriented development. The bill also defines: (1) “affordable housing” as a decent, safe and sanitary dwelling, apartment or other living accommodation for a household whose income does not exceed 120% of the median income for the area; and (2) “transit oriented development” as a type of development that links land use with transit facilities by combining housing with complementary public uses, including jobs, retail or services establishments that are located in transit-served nodes or corridors.

Veterans & Legal Affairs


This bill requires the presentation of proof of identity in the form of a photograph identification when voting in person or by absentee ballot. Acceptable photograph identification is a valid driver’s license or nondriver identification card issued in this State, a U.S. passport, a military identification or a permit to carry a concealed handgun issued in this State if that permit includes a photograph. An identification issued by a college or university in this State may not be accepted for voter identification when voting or when registering to vote. The bill also allows a person who does not possess a photograph identification document to request a free special voter photograph identification card from the Secretary of State.