



# Maine Municipal Association

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To: MMA's Legislative Policy Committee  
From: Christine Landes, Chair  
Re: Notice and Agenda for February 28, 2019 LPC Meeting  
Date: February 21, 2019

The next meeting of the Legislative Policy Committee is scheduled for:

**Thursday, February 28, 2019**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon: Subcommittees**  
**12:00 – 1:00 p.m.: luncheon**  
**1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.: Business Meeting**  
**Maine Municipal Association**

Next Thursday's meeting of the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) is shaping up to be robust. In addition to establishing the Association's position on several bills impacting municipal government, the LPC will establish positions on the municipally relevant elements of Governor Mills' proposed FY 2020 – FY 2021 biennial General Fund Budget.

The LPC will also be asked to establish its bond funding priorities by completing the attached bond priorities survey. As you will read, the survey asks Policy Committee members to: (1) set the total value of the bond package to be sent to the voters for approval; and (2) determine the portion of the overall bond issue, if any, to be allocated to the various elements of the package (e.g., highway/bridge transportation, rail transportation, water/wastewater infrastructure, broadband infrastructure, culverts, low income housing, public facilities/downtown revitalization, etc.). For your information, also attached is a spreadsheet showing Maine's debt service history since 1995.

We will likely also have a supplemental agenda with legislation that will be printed after the distribution of this agenda.

If you have any questions about next week's meeting or the materials provided in the packet, please do not hesitate to contact Kate Dufour at [kdufour@memun.org](mailto:kdufour@memun.org) or 1-800-452-8786.

Thank you.

## Agenda

### I. Bonds

- a. **Bond Priorities Survey.** The LPC is asked to complete the attached survey of bond priorities (**Attachment #1**), first listing your preference for the total size of the bond package to be advance to voters for approval and then the proportion of the total package you would like to see allocated to each bond topic as well as options to list “other” topics. To help inform your decisions, we have provided a spreadsheet illustrating Maine’s debt service history at (**Attachment #2**).

### II. MMA Policy Platform Bills Printed – FYI

- a. LD 751, *An Act To Reinstate the State Property tax Deferral Program of Maine’s Senior Homeowners*, sponsored by Rep. Skolfield of Weld.
- b. LD 761, *An Act To Clarify and Affirm Medicaid Eligibility for Incarcerated Individuals*, sponsored by Rep. Rep. Talbot Ross of Portland.

### III. Proposed legislation. A summary description of each bill subject to LPC review is provided in MMA’s “LD List 2019” (**Attachment #3**)

- a. **The LPC Subcommittee on Appropriations, Taxation & Education** will provide recommendations for full LPC consideration on the following legislative initiatives.
  - i. Appropriations & Financial Affairs-related legislation.
    1. Consent agenda items, if any.
    2. FY 2020-2021 Biennial General Fund Budget:
      - a. Revenue Sharing (Part H). Under current statute, funding for the state-municipal revenue sharing program is restored to five percent of state sales and income taxes on July 1, 2019 (FY 2020). However, the proposed budget reduces the amount of state tax revenue shared with municipalities to 2.5 percent in FY 2020 and three percent in FY 2021. As proposed, funding for the program will increase from the current

\$71 million to \$89.2 million in FY 2020 and \$115.7 million in FY 2021. Funding at the five percent level would increase municipal revenue sharing distributions to \$174.4 million and \$190.3 million in the first and second years of the biennium, respectively.

b. Funding for K-12 Education (Part C). \$2.28 billion is calculated by the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) model, including the normal cost of teacher retirement, as necessary to fund K-12 education in FY 2020. The state's proposed contribution to those costs is \$1.16 billion, accounting for 50.71 percent of total expenditures. The budget allocates an additional \$224 million as the state's share of the total unfunded actuarial liabilities (UAL) of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that are attributable to teacher and retired teacher health and life insurance benefits. The UAL appropriation brings the total costs of K-12 education to \$2.51 billion, with the state's \$1.38 billion appropriation accounting for 55.1 percent of total expenditures. For FY 2020, the minimum local share for the cost of funding K-12 education is \$1.13 billion and the mill rate expectation is 8.28, both of which represent a reduction in local costs.

c. Funding for County Government Services (Part A). \$18.4 million is appropriated in each year of the biennium to fund county jail operations. This allocation represents an increase from the \$15.3 million provided in FY 2018 and is equal to the amount of state funding provided in FY 2019.

3. Plus, legislation that was printed after this agenda was distributed.

ii. Education & Cultural Affairs-related legislation.

1. Consent agenda items, if any.

2. LD 654 – An Act Regarding Instruction in Civics in Secondary Schools.
3. LD 736 – An Act To Protect Students during Elections Held at Their Schools.
4. ... Plus legislation that was printed after this agenda was distributed.

iii. Health & Human Services-related legislation.

1. Consent agenda items, if any.
2. LD 738 – Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Health and Human Services To Convene a Study Group To Review the Crisis Response System in the State.
3. LD 915 – An Act To Provide Adequate Reimbursement under MaineCare for Ambulance and Neonatal Transport Services.
4. ... Plus legislation that was printed after this agenda was distributed.

iv. Taxation-related legislation.

1. Consent agenda items, if any.
2. LD 560 – An Act To Improve Access to Property Tax Exemptions for New Homeowners.
3. LD 645 – RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Cap the Property Tax on the Primary Residence of Certain Residents Who Are 65 Years of Age or Older.
4. LD 811 – An Act To Provide Additional Flexibility in the Municipal Property Tax Assistance Programs for Seniors.
5. LD 839 – An Act To Increase Funding for Multimodal Transportation.

6. LD 873 – An Act To Limit Registration Fees on Water Well Drilling Equipment To Encourage Purchasing of Modern Equipment for Rural Well Construction.
7. LD 922 – An Act To Provide a Property Tax Exemption for Renewable Energy Fixtures.
8. No LD# - Maine School Management Association’s Proposed Amendment to Local Option Sales Tax Bill.
9. ... Plus legislation that was printed after this agenda was distributed.

b. **The LPC Subcommittee on Elections, State & Local Government, Marijuana, Labor & Utilities** will provide recommendations for full LPC consideration on the following legislative initiatives.

i. Energy, Utilities & Technology-related legislation.

1. Consent agenda items, if any.
2. LD 743 – An Act To Create Local Options in E-9-1-1 Protocol Mandates.
3. LD 674 – An Act To Improve the E-9-1-1 System.
4. LD 790 – An Act To Eliminate the Cap on the Number of Accounts or Meters Designated for Net Energy Billing.
5. ... Plus legislation that was printed after this agenda was distributed.

ii. Judiciary-related legislation.

1. Consent agenda items, if any.
2. LD 800 – An Act To Require Recording of Interviews of Suspects.
3. LD 847 – An Act To Ensure Persons with Disabilities Have Access to Public Rest Rooms.

4. LD 868 – An Act To Require That the Terms of a Settlement to Which a Local Unit of Government Is a Party Be Made Available to the Public.
5. ... Plus legislation that was printed after this agenda was distributed.

iii. Labor & Housing-related legislation.

1. Consent agenda items, if any.
2. LD 758 – An Act To Clarify Work Search Requirements for Workers' Compensation.
3. LD 855 – An Act To Strengthen the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.
4. LD 900 – An Act To Expand the Rights of Public Employees under the Maine Labor Laws.
5. LD 921 – An Act To Allow Municipalities To Adopt Stricter Building and Energy Code Standards Than the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.
6. LD 947 – An Act To Extend the Notice of Injury Period in the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992.
7. ... Plus legislation that was printed after this agenda was distributed.

iv. State & Local Government-related legislation.

1. Consent agenda items, if any.
2. LD 226 – An Act To Require the Use of Preapproved Subcontractors for Publicly Funded Construction Projects.
3. LD 554 – An Act To Clarify the Authority to Recall Municipal Officials.
4. LD 563 – An Act To Help Municipalities Prepare for Sea Level Rise.
5. LD 655 – An Act To Allow Municipalities To Send Separate Tax Bills for Municipal and County and School Taxes.

6. LD 696 – An Act To Protect Public Employees from Identity Theft.
7. LD 746 – An Act To Allow Municipalities To Determine the Duration of Development Districts Funded by Assessments.
8. LD 806 – An Act To Clarify the Definition of “Ancient Burying Ground.”
9. LD 933 – Resolve, Authorizing Certain Persons To Sue the Town of Kittery.
10. LD 948 – An Act To Restrict Ordinances That Affect the Posting of Property for Municipal and Private Land.
11. ... Plus legislation that was printed after this agenda was distributed.

v. Veterans & Legal Affairs-related legislation.

1. Consent agenda items, if any.
2. LD 245 – An Act To Reestablish a Presidential Primary System in Maine.
3. LD 661 – An Act To Increase Gaming Opportunities for Charitable Veterans’ Organizations.
4. LD 753 – An Act To Allow Voters To Choose Ongoing Absentee Voter Status.
5. LD 780 – An Act to Change Municipal Campaign Contribution Limits.
6. ... Plus legislation that was printed after this agenda was distributed.

c. **The LPC Subcommittee on Criminal Justice & Public Safety, Environment & Transportation** will provide recommendations for full LPC consideration on the following legislative matters.

i. Criminal Justice & Public Safety-related legislation.

1. Consent agenda items, if any.

2. LD 636 – An Act To Require Law Enforcement Officers To Wear Body Cameras.
3. LD 677 – An Act Regarding the Use of Seizure and Forfeitures by Law Enforcement.
4. LD 678 – An Act Requiring the State To Find 20.25 Percent of the Cost of County Jails.
5. LD 755 – An Act To Ensure Funding Sources for County Jails.
6. LD 767 – An Act To Ensure the Availability of In-person Visitation in County Jails.
7. LD 829 – Resolve, To Reestablish the Commission To Improve the Sentencing, Supervision, Management and Incarceration of Prisoners.
8. LD 925 – An Act Requiring the Department of Corrections To Fully Fund County Jails for Individuals Sentenced to County Jails for More Than 6 Months and Individuals Held for Probation or Parole Violations.
9. ... Plus legislation that was printed after this agenda was distributed.

ii. Environment & Natural Resources-related legislation.

1. Consent agenda items, if any.
2. LD 550 – An Act To Amend the Definition of “Subdivision” in the Laws Governing Planning and Land Use Regulation for Subdivisions and a Provision Excepting the Division of a New or Existing Structure from Those Laws Beginning July 1, 2018.
3. LD 562 – An Act To Improve Shoreland Zoning Rules and Enforcement To Support Municipalities.
4. LD 565 – An Act To Establish the Maine Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission.
5. LD 603 – An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Funding for Landfill Closure Costs.



6. LD 710 – Resolve, To Require the Department of Environmental Protection To Study the Establishment of a Product Stewardship Program for Mattresses.
7. LD 774 – An Act to Protect Maine’s Beaches and Shoreline.
8. LD 797 – An Act To Limit Greenhouse Gas Pollution and Effectively Use Maine’s Natural Resources.
9. LD 893 – An Act To Create an Updated Unified Maine Climate Action Plan.
10. LD 906 – An Act Concerning Pavement Sealing Products.
11. ... Plus legislation that was printed after this agenda was distributed.

iii. Transportation-related legislation.

1. Consent agenda items, if any.
2. LD 689 – An Act Regarding Temporary Signs Related to an Event That Are Placed in the Public Right-of-way.
3. LD 778 – An Act To Create the Fund for Municipalities To Improve Pedestrian Safety.
4. LD 917 – An Act Increasing Municipal Agent Fees for Motor Vehicle, All-terrain Vehicle, Snowmobile and Watercraft Registrations.
5. ... Plus legislation that was printed after this agenda was distributed.

**IV. Adjourn**