



# Maine Municipal Association

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To: MMA's Legislative Policy Committee

From: Christine Landes, Chair

Re: Notice and Agenda for April 25, 2019 LPC Meeting – **Note the Change in Time**

Date: April 18, 2019

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

**Thursday, April 25, 2019**  
**12:00 – 12:30 p.m.: Luncheon**  
**12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.: Business Meeting**  
**Maine Municipal Association**

At next week's meeting, the Policy Committee will be asked to establish positions on over 35 bills. Because the list of bills to be discussed at the April 25 meeting disproportionately fall into one subcommittee, MMA staff has decided to cancel the subcommittee meetings. Instead, the entire Policy Committee will meet next Thursday afternoon to establish positions on all the municipally relevant bills. Lunch will be served at noon and the business meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m.

In addition, as the Legislature's June 19 adjournment date quickly approaches, all rules regarding the noticing of public hearings and work sessions have gone out the window. Long gone are the two weeks' notice of public hearings and work sessions. While under the current system the public is still sometimes provided with one week's notice of public hearings, work sessions and bill amendment reviews are scheduled and canceled, at times, with only a day's notice.

For that reason, it is very possible that next Thursday's meeting will be the last of the 2019 session. Instead of convening in May, it is likely that SFR staff will rely on weekly surveys to obtain municipal positions on bills of greatest significance to our communities. While it is not the most ideal way to gauge municipal interest on policy issues, under the circumstances, it is necessary. That said, please leave the May 16 meeting on your calendar for now. Staff will be deciding the need for a meeting the week of May 6.

Unfortunately, I am unavailable to meet with you next week. However, Mary Sabins, the immediate past LPC chair and President of the Association, has graciously agreed to chair the meeting.

Thank you all for your ongoing service on the LPC. Your contributions have had a positive and tremendous impact on the Association's advocacy efforts.

### **Agenda**

- I. Proposed legislation.** A summary description of each bill subject to LPC review is provided in MMA's "LD List 2019" (**Attachment #1**).
  - a. Criminal Justice & Public Safety-related legislation.
    - 1. LD 1492 – An Act To Reform Drug Sentencing Laws.
  - b. Education & Cultural Affairs-related legislation.
    - 1. LD 1592 – An Act To Allow the Dissolution of Regional School Units Composed of a Single Municipality.
    - 2. LD 1593 – An Act To Support Infrastructure Improvements in Schools.
  - c. Energy, Utilities & Technology-related legislation.
    - 1. LD 1542 – An Act To Allow a Municipality To Choose Its Power Provider.
    - 2. LD 1563 – An Act To Encourage the Development of Broadband Coverage in Rural Maine.
  - d. Environment & Natural Resources-related legislation.
    - 1. LD 1594 – An Act To Establish a Stewardship Program for Consumer Batteries.

e. Health & Human Services-related legislation.

1. LD 1505 – An Act To Amend the Marijuana Laws To Correct Inconsistencies in Recently Enacted Laws.

f. Judiciary-related legislation.

1. LD 1449 – An Act To Facilitate Compliance with Federal Immigration Law by State and Local Government Entities.
2. LD 1475 – An Act To Eliminate Profiling in Maine.
3. LD 1511 – An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Exceptions.
4. LD 1575 – An Act To Improve the Freedom of Access Laws of Maine.
5. LD 1589 – An Act To Protect the Liberty of Immigrants and Asylum Seekers in Maine.

g. Labor & Housing-related legislation.

1. LD 1501 – An Act to Change the Law Governing Occupational Disease Claims under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992.
2. LD 1509 – An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code To Ensure It Is Consistent with Current Standards and Applies to Small Municipalities.
3. LD 1543 – An Act To Amend the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.
4. LD 1572 – An Act To Enact the Maine Fair Chance Housing Act.

5. LD 1600 – An Act To Support E-9-1-1 Dispatchers and Corrections Officers Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder.
- h. State & Local Government-related legislation.
1. LD 1476 – An Act To Clarify Recounts in Municipal Elections.
  2. LD 1536 – An Act To Require Municipalities To Maintain Access on Public Rights-of-Way.
  3. LD 1587 – An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Nominations of County Commissioners, the Terms of County Commissioners and County Commissioner Districts.
- i. Taxation-related legislation.
1. LD 1508 – An Act To Respect the Will of Maine Voters by Funding Education at 55 Percent.
- j. Transportation-related legislation.
1. LD 1473 – An Act To Provide Consistency in the Laws Governing Culvert Replacement.
  2. LD 1498 – An Act To Provide Equity for Commercial Vehicles on Roads and Bridges in Maine.
  3. LD 1513 – An Act To Amend the Date by Which an Applicant for Funds under the Local Road Assistance Program Must Provide Certification to the Department of Transportation.
- k. Veterans & Legal Affairs-related legislation.
1. LD 1444 – An Act To Make the Distance to Schools for Marijuana Establishments Consistent with the Liquor Laws.
  2. LD 1463 – An Act To Create an Automatic Voter Registration System.

3. LD 1565 – Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Protect Voter-approved Measures.
4. LD 1570 – An Act to Allow Residents to Register Online To Vote.