

A publication of the Maine Municipal Association • Vol. XLVI No. 15 • APRIL 12, 2024

That's All Folks...

It is with mixed emotions that we bid our faithful readers farewell, as the members of the 131st Maine State Legislature are poised to finally adjourn next week. While this is the last Legislative Bulletin of the 2024 session, please be on the lookout for action alerts seeking your assistance with getting the word out on important policy initiatives.

Of note, there are three bills of municipal interest that have not yet been finally decided, including initiatives to: (1) fund a pilot program designed to deliver culturally appropriate physical and mental healthcare services to first responders, which was originally printed as LD 1857 and has been moved into the FY 2024–FY 2025 supplemental General Fund budget (LD 2214); (2) increase from 70% to 90% state reimbursement for the direct aid provided by municipalities under the General Assistance Program (LD 1664); and (3) provide municipal leaders and residents with a new tool for expanding access to affordable housing via the use of Tax Increment Financing revenue (LD 1493). These bills are awaiting final supplemental budget adoption and Appropriations Table decisions, which we hope will happen before the end of next week.

We thank municipal leaders for serving on the Legislative Policy Committee, responding to our action alerts, and supporting our advocacy efforts. Municipal officials concerned about losing access to their weekly doses of brutally honest assessments of legislative activities, need not worry. For more under the dome style humor, please check MMA's Potholes & Politics podcast, <u>https://www.memun.org/Media-Publications/MMA-Podcast</u>

Please see the <u>LD List</u> for final dispositions on bills, now with direct links to enacted laws, which is updated and posted every Friday on our website, and our Legislative Wrap-up articles which will be published in the May edition of the *Maine Town & City* magazine.

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

A weekly publication of the Maine Municipal Association throughout sessions of the Maine State Legislature.

Subscriptions to the *Bulletin* are available at a rate of \$20 per calendar year. Inquiries regarding subscriptions or opinions expressed in this publication should be addressed to:

Legislative Bulletin

Maine Municipal Association, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330 207-623-8428 Website: <u>www.memun.org</u>

Editorial Staff: Kate Dufour, Rebecca Graham, Rebecca Lambert, Amanda Campbell and Laura Ellis of Advocacy & Communications. Layout: Sue Bourdon, Advocacy & Communications