

To: MMA's Legislative Policy Committee
Fr: Justin Poirier, Chair
Re: Notice and Agenda for the February 27, 2025 LPC Meeting
Date: February 20, 2025

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

**Thursday, February 27, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting
Maine Municipal Association**

Zoom Option Available:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89463366703?pwd=bjyhNaAgcZya5CzcNstNAjH5uqzltP.1>

As evidenced by the number of bills subject to polls since the LPC's January meeting, things are starting to move quickly at the State House. Due to the number of public hearings on bills of municipal significance scheduled for February 27, it is likely that advocacy staff will participate in our meeting intermittently. For this reason, the agenda for the February meeting does not follow the traditional pattern. Housekeeping issues and other updates will be moved to the end of the agenda to accommodate staff schedules, and it is likely the order of events will change the morning of our meeting.

Additionally, since MMA's Revenue Sharing III platform bill (LD 283) will be heard at 1 p.m. on February 27 and if we can get our work completed in the morning, staff encourage members to participate in the hearing. Perhaps an LPC State House field trip is in the works.

We greatly appreciate your patience as we continue to sort out the order of events. Also, please let Laura (lellis@memun.org) know by **noon on Monday, February 24**, if you will be participating via Zoom or in-person, so that staff can plan appropriately.

I look forward to guiding the committee through the following agenda.

Agenda

I. Welcome (10:00 a.m.)

II. Proposed legislation. A summary description of each bill subject to LPC review is provided in MMA’s “2025 LD List” ([Attachment #1](#)). The bills are hyperlinked both on the LD List and below under each subcommittee, as opposed to sending the bills separately.

a. Amanda Campbell will provide information for full LPC consideration on the following legislative initiatives.

i. Environment & Natural Resources-related legislation.

1. [LD 231](#) *An Act to Update the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy*
2. [LD 430](#) *An Act to Impose Moratoria on Hydropower Dam Removal and on Water Release from Nonhydropower Dams and to Make Other Changes to the Laws Regulating Such Dams*
3. [LD 646](#) *Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study Unregulated Storm Water Pollution*

ii. Health & Human Services-related legislation.

1. [LD 637](#) *Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Evaluate the Municipal General Assistance Program Database*
2. [LD 650](#) *An Act to Support Municipal Public Health*
3. [LD 657](#) *An Act to Modify the Law Governing Municipal General Assistance by Designating Broadband Internet Access Service and Wireless Access Point Technology as Basic Necessities*

iii. Labor-related legislation.

1. [LD 406](#) *An Act to Repeal the Laws Providing for Paid Family and Medical Leave and to Reimburse Taxpayers*
2. [LD 539](#) *An Act to Repeal the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program*
3. [LD 575](#) *An Act to Ensure Equitable Access to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program by Removing the Requirement That Leave Must Be Scheduled to Prevent Undue Hardship on the Employer*

iv. State & Local Government-related legislation.

1. [LD 542](#) *An Act Regarding Municipal Property Tax Levy Limits*

v. Taxation-related legislation.

1. [LD 294](#) *An Act to Expand Municipal Volunteer Program Eligibility Requirements in the Municipal Property Tax Assistance Laws*
2. [LD 399](#) *An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Retention of Proceeds from Municipal Foreclosures*

3. [LD 432](#) RESOLUTION, *Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Allow Municipalities to Apportion Real and Personal Property Taxes on the Basis of Property Classification*
4. [LD 438](#) *An Act to Allow Municipalities to Limit Nonprofit Property Tax Exemptions*
5. [LD 526](#) *An Act to Reduce the Time Period for Challenging the Validity of a Property Tax Lien on Commercial Real Estate*
6. [LD 559](#) *An Act to Provide Property Tax Stabilization for Older Maine Residents*
7. [LD 565](#) *An Act to Amend the Definition of "Homestead" Under the Homestead Property Tax Exemption Laws*
8. [LD 570](#) *An Act to Provide an Additional Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption Based on Income*
9. [LD 632](#) *An Act to Allow a Local Option Sales Tax on Short-term Lodging to Fund Affordable Housing*
10. [LD 652](#) *An Act to Provide Qualifying Downtown Businesses and Developments with Assistance Paying Flood Insurance Premiums*
11. [LD 658](#) *An Act to Lower Property Taxes by Increasing the Homestead Property Tax Exemption*

b. **Rebecca Lambert** will provide information for full LPC consideration on the following legislative initiatives.

- i. **Energy, Utilities & Technology-related legislation.**
 1. [LD 481](#) *An Act to Allow a Water District Created by Special Act of the Legislature to Borrow Money and Issue a Warrant Prior to a Default*
- ii. **Judiciary-related legislation.**
 1. [LD 395](#) *An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations*
- iii. **State & Local Government-related legislation.**
 1. [LD 551](#) *An Act to Restore Balanced Emergency Powers*
 2. [LD 556](#) *An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor*
- iv. **Veterans & Legal Affairs-related legislation.**
 1. [LD 600](#) *An Act to Initiate Recounts in Tied Election*

- c. **Rebecca Graham** will provide information for full LPC consideration on the following legislative initiatives.
 - i. **Criminal Justice & Public Safety-related legislation.**
 1. [LD 298](#) *An Act to Employ Mental Health Personnel Within the Maine State Police*
 2. [LD 405](#) *An Act to Define "Solitary Confinement" for the Laws Governing Jails and Correctional Facilities*
 3. [LD 583](#) *An Act to Support Informed Community Self-determination in Emergency Medical Services Planning*
 - ii. **Housing & Economic Development-related legislation.**
 1. [LD 427](#) *An Act to Prohibit Mandatory Parking Space Minimums in State and Municipal Building Codes*
 2. [LD 546](#) *Resolve, to Require the Preparation of Preapproved Building Types*
 3. [LD 603](#) *An Act to Ensure That the Exemption of Certain Agricultural Buildings from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Includes Maple Sugarhouses*
 4. [LD 659](#) *An Act to Reduce Housing Costs by Not Requiring Fire Sprinkler Systems for Single-family Homes and Duplexes*
 - iii. **Judiciary-related legislation.**
 1. [LD 386](#) *An Act Regarding Information That May Be Shared by Law Enforcement Entities with a School Superintendent or a Principal*
 - iv. **Transportation-related legislation.**
 1. [LD 290](#) *An Act to Remit 15 Percent of the Fine for a Violation of the Motor Vehicle Laws to the Municipality in Which the Violation Occurred*
 2. [LD 320](#) *An Act to Repeal Certain Motor Vehicle Inspection Requirements*
 3. [LD 557](#) *An Act to Allow All-terrain Vehicles to Be Used on a Public Way*
 4. [LD 611](#) *An Act to Allow the Secretary of State to Collect Excise Taxes on Motor Vehicles Owned by Residents Who Are Unhoused*
 5. [LD 622](#) *An Act to Implement a Surcharge on Electric Vehicle Registration*
 6. [LD 661](#) *An Act to Amend Motor Vehicle Inspection Requirements*

III. Maine Association of Planners (MAP) – Presentation Growth Management Law Bill. Jennie Franceschi, Westbrook Director of Planning and Code Enforcement, has

been granted permission to address the LPC regarding the Growth Management Act legislation MAP is advancing for the legislature's consideration. Information about the proposal, including the bill and a one-page overview, is found [here](#) at **Attachment #2**.

IV. Consent Agenda. All bills voted by poll and Zoom since the January 30 meeting are on a consent agenda, found [here](#) at **Attachment #3**. LPC members will have the opportunity to pull any of the bills off the consent agenda for further discussion and voting. All bills left on the consent agenda will be recorded with the votes as shown.

V. MMA platform bills printed & updates.

a. [LD 185](#) *An Act to Expand Opportunities to Invest Municipal Tax Increment Financing Revenues* (Sponsored by Rep. Mastraccio of Sanford)

b. [LD 283](#) *An Act to Expand Local Revenues by Including Meals and Lodging Sales Tax Revenue Under the State-Municipal Revenue Sharing Program* (Sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich)

VI. Housekeeping

a. Attendance

b. 2025 meeting dates

- i. Thursday, March 20
- ii. Wednesday, April 16
- iii. Thursday, May 22

c. LPC Bylaw amendment recommendation from MMA's Executive Committee.

MMA's Executive Committee has recommended an amendment to the LPC's bylaws, which can be found [here](#) at **Attachment #4**.

VII. LPC Comprehensive Tax Reform Working Group Update. Amanda Campbell and Kate Dufour will provide an update on the working group's February 18, 2025 meeting, a summary of which can be found [here](#) as **Attachment #5**.

- i. LPC Feedback on Working Group's Report

VIII. Adjourn