

**MEMORANDUM**

To: AIA MA GAC  
From: John Nunnari  
Date: 11/06/2023  
Re: Legislative and Regulatory Update

**Legislative Update:****Since the last Update**

There is a growing concern that immigrants seeking shelter may be turned away due to a shortage of space, marking a potential departure from a 40-year practice of guaranteeing shelter for families and pregnant women from other countries. Governor Healey has acknowledged the state's diminishing capacity for providing protection and appointed an Emergency Assistance Director to tackle the issue. This development raised concerns among advocates who filed suit, claiming a violation of the state's right-to-shelter law. A state judge then ruled that the Commonwealth could push forward with the Governor's plan to cap the number of families allowed to stay in the state's emergency shelter system. Additionally, the Governor has proposed a plan to tax high-value real estate transactions to generate funds for affordable housing initiatives, sparking debates within the state.

Simultaneously, Massachusetts is grappling with the challenge of meeting its climate and clean energy goals, mainly the target of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. A recent report by the state's climate chief, Melissa Hoffer, outlines strategies for the government to combat climate change effectively. Pressure from environmental groups has been mounting, exemplified by protests like the "die-in" held outside the State House, urging swift action on climate issues.

On another front, the MBTA has come under scrutiny due to construction problems on its Green Line tracks, exacerbating the state's infrastructure challenges. These issues have highlighted the need for comprehensive planning and investment in various sectors, from housing and climate action to transportation and homelessness, as the state navigates these complex and interconnected challenges.

**Looking Forward**

The Legislature is moving slowly toward the end of its 2023 session (Nov 15th), with many issues deferred to next year. The House has approved a comprehensive firearms law overhaul, while a Senate bill is expected in January. Lawmakers are letting Ways and Means Chairs Rep. Michlewitz and Sen. Rodrigues make critical budget decisions for the overdue fiscal 2023 supplemental budget. The House plans to address long-term care industry issues, and the Senate will work on a bill to lower prescription drug costs. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu is dealing with tent encampment-related challenges while Governor Maura Healey manages the influx of migrants. Municipal elections and a state senator race are also taking place.

**AIA MA Bills**

Since the October 11<sup>th</sup> report, of the 135 bills now being tracked by AIA MA, all bills have had their public hearing.

**Regulatory Update:**

Board meetings:

- Wed., Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – Examiners of Plumbers and Gas Fitters
- Tues., Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> – Board of Elevator Regulations

- Wed., Nov 8<sup>th</sup> – Commonwealth Designer Selection Board
- Wed., Nov 8<sup>th</sup> – Architectural Access Board (Subcommittee on Regs.)
- Mon., Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> – Architectural Access Board
- Tues., Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> – Board of Building Regulations and Standards
- Wed., Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> – Board of Examiners of Sheet Metal Workers
- Fri., Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> – Examiners of Plumbers and Gas Fitters (Public Hearing on 248 CMR 10.00)
- Tues., Nov 21<sup>st</sup> – Board of Elevator Regulations
- Wed., Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Commonwealth Designer Selection Board
- Mon., Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> – Architectural Access Board
- Mon., Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> – Board of State Examiners of Electricians
- Tues. Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> – Board of Elevator Regulations

\*\*Schedule of meetings can also be found on [AIA MA web-site](#)

No new **Notices of Public Review of Prospective Regulations** or **New Regulations** have been issued or promulgated by the Secretary of State since the last report on October 11, 2023.