



Minutes of the February 08, 2023 meeting of the Government Affairs Committee

Location Teleconference via Zoom

Present
(*AIA MA board members)

Edward Adelman	Hugh Glazer	Sarah Oakes
Michael Bellefeuille	Thomas Hartman*	Pasqualino Pannone
Gary Brock	Tim Houde	Eric Peterson
Dorrie Brooks*	G. Drake Jacobs	Courtney Prentiss
Kate Bubriski	Andrew Kollar	Edward Ransom
Jean Carroon	Michelle Lambert	Dennis Rieske
Christine Clements	Ari Levine	Jon Seward
Carolyn Day*	Roger Lipman	Ellen Watts
Mark Dunn	Edward Marcey	Jacob Werner
Natasha Espada	Nathaniel May	Laura Wernick
Russ Feldman	Andrew Mitchell	Zhen Wu
Jane Galli	John Nunnari	Andrea Yoder

Legislative update:

- Slow start to new session, Senate and House still to establish leadership and committee assignments. Approximately 7000 bills have been filed.
- So far: budget discussion began, Senate/House/Governor reached consensus on \$40.4BB for FY 2024, a 1.6% increase. Increase would be ~4% if the calculation included the new “billionaires tax”; still debating the relative spending split between education and transportation. Proposal to put into separate fund for tracking money in/money out, will watch over 1-2 fiscal years to evaluate spending plan.
- Governor’s administration to submit budget Apr/May, legislature committees to respond, final due in July but generally takes until Aug/Sep
- Senate passed internal “joint rules”, House still working. Transparency issue - whether committee votes to be made public. House says no, no transparency gain because actual publicly recorded vote happens on the floor. Like last session, when House and Senate reached no agreement, they just used joint rules from previous sessions, may do so again.
- EW: what’s in the 7000 bills? JN: see the priorities statements from Governor/ Senate/ House. Not much overlap in priorities of the three. Things slowing down, will hear terminology “slow session” relative to the 1.6% increase.
- JC: sent letter supporting \$300MM fed funds to address existing buildings. JN: Student Climate Activists lobby day event, that was part of their request, not likely to progress. Link to Mass Climate Action/ Zero Carbon Renovation: https://www.massclimateaction.org/the_zero_carbon_renovation_fund
- CD, EW: lot of momentum behind this, MA AIA should support, should find relevant bill numbers and which legislators are sponsoring/supporting.
- Specific bills of interest to members:
 - Jane Galli: Interior Design Bill, refiled bills for this session, numbers HD 773 and SD 242 <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/HD773>
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/SD242>



- Jon Seward: heading to the Statehouse soon to meet new Legislators. I'm hoping that the AIA/BSA will support TOPA this term: An Act to guarantee a tenant's first right of refusal (TOPA)
- HD 3645 (Rep Jay Livingstone and Rep. Rob Consalvo)
- SD 2238 (Sen. Pat Jehlen and Sen. Adam Gomez) More info at [topa4ma.org](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/HD3645). <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/HD3645>. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/SD2238>. This revised legislation is an anti displacement, neighborhood stabilization, and affordable housing tool, as a local option.
- PP: what priority to housing issues? JN: Senate/House attitude: "we just passed housing choice, let's give that a chance to work before passing any new requirements"
- EW: should focus on bills related to Climate, Housing, Education

Regulatory update:

- Building code: has now cleared BCCC and is with the office of Housing and Economic Development, the to the Secretary of Admin+Finance, Governor will decide when to issue for public hearings. Timeline: probably late spring this year, one month of comments, review and evaluate, then promulgate.
- Energy code DOER sent out, extending comment period to Feb-24.
- Building officials vs DOER: disagree whether current stretch code issued Dec-23 (not the opt-in) is enforceable. Building officials cite the requirement for the state to adopt the latest IECC, which hasn't been officially adopted yet so they claim they have no legal basis to enforce. DOER disagrees, based on the legislature empowering DOER to enforce the stretch, regardless of what it is based on. Architects should be aware that local building officials may not agree to enforce stretch code on that basis.
- DB: note documentation requirements take time/money, be aware of impact on billing to client and inform clients/officials of financial impact.
- CD: TEDI modeling requirements prove out to *increase* energy use in e.g. cooling-load dominated buildings. EW: use of actual inputs in second model addresses this conflict.
- RF: there's always uncertainty during 6 month concurrency period, in this case even more uncertain. Architects to advise clients of possible future non-compliance. DOER new to issuing codes and not aware of follow-on complications.
- GB: e.g. school projects must anticipate future codes, lack of training on new requirements hinders implementation.
- EW: building officials contacting EW for guidance, MassSave trainers not fully knowledgeable on new procedures.
- JN: Architecture Registration Board will be topic of March meeting, issues include intern architect title. CD: what's AIA official position? JN: working with AIA National on policy, no consensus yet. All 50 states regulate the title architect. In MA, only the individual is regulated for misuse, other states regulate firms misusing the title. Will have one registration board member at GAC meeting for conversation.



- SO: note that law generates in two allegations, misuse of title but also unlicensed practice.

Historic Preservation Legislation Update:

- RF: update: working on, making progress, discovered local historic commissions have no statutory authority, only precedent from one case in Cambridge. So the task is to propose legislation where there is none already in place.
- JN: note there are laws on historic *district* commissions.

Freshman Legislators Breakfast Planning:

- Invitation sent for Tue/Feb-28 from 9:00 - 10:30am, at Carrie Nation, 11 Beacon Street. There are 22 new state representatives and five new state senators, and the event is an opportunity for architects to meet these newly elected leaders in an atmosphere of casual conversation over breakfast.
- Welcoming remarks by Rep Jeff Roy 10th Norfolk, sponsor of climate bill. Other remarks by AIA board members, then open conversation. Less about pushing priorities, more to develop relationships between constituents and elected officials.
- Invitations sent yesterday Tue/Feb-07, so far 2 new legislators have accepted. JN will follow up over next 3 weeks to encourage participation.

MA AIA 2023 Legislative Goals Discussion:

- Reviewing the ~7000 bills for effects on practice of architecture. Looking for volunteers to review and summarize, recommend which to track
- JN categories:
 - BBRS, 16 bills refiled from last session to track
 - Ch 148: fire services/code, 5 bills refiled
 - Ch 149, 149A, 130, 130B: public construction, filed sub bids,
 - Ch 70B: school building authority, 15 bills refiled
 - Energy, Historic, NetZero, Zoning: 16 bills refiled
- JN will send bill summaries and instructions on how to read bills, to those willing to review a set of bills. JN will do first pass on all 7000 bills based on keywords, sort into interest areas, and distribute to volunteers for review.
- DB: educate members on how to effectively advocate - in some future GAC session give a crash course in how to get involved.

Upcoming meeting topics, speakers:

- *Tom Hartman has a program/learning unit on carbon education, can publicize/offer to members.*
- *Invite Amy Dain (5 part series for Commonwealth, formed basis for housing choice initiative) as future speaker, re: zoning, housing, MBTA policy. Ask members for architects who serve on local zoning boards, to participate.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M Clements, AIA
Secretary, Government Affairs Committee



The next meeting of the Government Affairs Committee will be held on March 08, 2022 at 8:30 am via teleconference. You may register in advance using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErdOCsrDkvGtVYg5GrVbBaqcxLqauDjdGI>
An email reminder with directions on how to RSVP will also be sent to those all AIA members in Massachusetts and via the BSA's knowledge committee announcements.

Distribution: AIA MA Board

Note: Items in italics are carried over from prior minutes.

Attachments: none

End of Minutes