

2023-2024 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY GOALS
December 2022

AIA Massachusetts (AIA MA) focuses on legislative and regulatory advocacy in the Commonwealth for issues that have direct impact on the architectural profession. For the next two years, 2023-2024, AIA MA will focus on the following advocacy for issues including, but not limited to, the following:

Policy positions

- **Environmental:** energy efficiency, carbon neutrality, and resiliency
- **Economic Justice:** equity and diversity in housing and access to and construction of K-12 and higher education facilities
- **Codes:** better coordination of codes and regulations for the built environment, and incentivizing renovation/retrofit of existing buildings as a sustainable practice
- **Practice:** support for the business practice of architecture for firms of all sizes, and support for initiatives that look to strengthen workforce diversity, equity and inclusion
- **Smart Growth:** support for the principles of smart growth development policies and regionally appropriate investments in infrastructure and transportation

Legislative Advocacy

Continue support and monitoring of bills that:

- Seek overall carbon neutrality, especially in the building sector
- Promote design and construction of zero-net energy buildings
- Encourages electrification and de-carbonization of public utilities
- Reinsert the consistency provisions that were removed from the 2018 Climate Adaptation Management Plan (C.A.M.P.)
- Promote expansion of net-metering
- Seek better coordination between the administrative boards and commissions that regulate the construction industry, and specifically seek a new legislative sponsor for the AIA MA Building Code Coordinating Council (BCCC) bill
- Support creation of more housing generally and more affordable housing particularly, with specific interest in: designer selection, permitting, use of modular construction, alternative procurement methods, and equitable housing access
- Promote more investment in and better oversight of historic preservation projects and control of demolition of historic structures
- Support development of mass timber industry in the commonwealth and the New England region
- Support pairing school funding equity issues with the AIA MA lead K-12 Healthy Schools initiative
- Support more state funding for all state projects related to increasing efficiency measures

Continue opposition to and monitoring of bills that:

- Establish a Practice Act for interior designers

Regulatory Advocacy

Continue support and monitoring of rules and regulations related to the built environment that:

- Advance strong energy and carbon reduction provisions within the upcoming 10th edition of the state building code, including the stretch code and new municipal opt-in stretch energy code
- Include the mass timber provisions contained within the base 2021 IBC/IRC in the upcoming 10th edition of the state building code
- Support better energy and carbon efficiency standards in building renovation
- Resolve known conflicts between states' various construction codes including, but not limited to: accessibility, fire, plumbing, mechanical, and building codes
- Support publication of a blended state building code
- Support zoning changes to increase housing affordability through density and mixed use
- Support authorization of "as-of-right" gender-neutral bathrooms