

MEMORANDUM

To: AIA MA GAC
From: John Nunnari
Date: 03/12/24
Re: Legislative and Regulatory Update

Legislative Update:**Since the last Update**

The retirement of Gaming Commission Chair Cathy Judd-Stein initiated discussions for her successor, while Governor Healey's active engagement in Washington addressing cybersecurity, funding, and clean energy, coincided with progress in renewable energy efforts like the operationalization of the Vineyard Wind project and plans for a new port in Salem Harbor. Meanwhile, in state politics, the Governor and legislative leaders began confronting a deluge of major bills and budgetary decisions amidst declining revenues, with housing and climate tech initiatives, alongside gun law reforms, taking center stage. Attention has also diverted to a healthcare crisis at Steward Health Care, prompting discussions on accountability, and legal battles emerged over municipal compliance with housing zoning laws, highlighting tensions between local autonomy and state mandates.

House Democrats grappled with escalating emergency shelter costs amid revenue declines, endorsing a stay limit alongside a \$245 million funding boost, albeit with differing views. Despite Republican proposals for stricter eligibility, Democrats revealed internal divisions within their caucus, compounded by concerns over shelter program management, including a contentious catering contract, and the absence of federal aid has exacerbated the state's challenges, as President Biden's recent speech offered limited relief. Furthermore, significant voter turnout in recent presidential primaries underscored the state's political dynamics, marked by internal party tensions in Republican State Committee races. At the same time, ongoing legal and educational debates over election laws and MCAS requirements amplify concerns about declining revenues and potential education program cuts.

Looking Forward

Legislators in Massachusetts are poised for a busy week, with public hearings scheduled for significant legislative matters, including changes in state laws affecting tipped service workers and a Senate initiative to expand early education access. Additionally, preparations are underway for releasing a revised version of the Governor's FY '25 budget proposal. The Joint Ways and Means Committee will hold public hearings to scrutinize various line items and policy riders shaping life in Massachusetts for the upcoming fiscal year. Furthermore, the Legislature is likely to approve another supplemental budget for FY '24 before finalizing the FY '25 budget, with the Senate preparing to consider a spending bill passed by the House, which includes provisions such as capping the duration of stays in emergency shelters and extending authorization for to-go alcoholic beverages.

AIA MA Bills

With the conclusion of February 7th, Joint Rule 10, we can report that of the 141 bills being tracked by AIA MA:

- 8 have been reported favorably or favorably as amended by Joint Committee
- 12 bills were combine into 6 bills and attached to favorable reports
- 30 bills were sent to study

- 42 have extension orders filed
- 10 still are awaiting a public hearing

To view the current status of all AIA MA tracked legislation, please click [here](#)

Regulatory Update:

A schedule of all construction board regulatory meetings can be found on the [Regulatory Events Calendar](#) of AIA MA's website.

New Regulations/ Notices of Public Review of Prospective Regulations (02/12/24 – 03/12/24)

Notice of Public Review for 310 CMR 9.00 The Massachusetts Waterways Regulation Notice of Public Review for 310 CMR 10.00 Wetlands Protection Regulations:

Extension of Comment Period and Additional Office Hours Sessions: The comment period has been extended until 5:00 p.m. on April 30, 2024.

MassDEP will conduct three additional Office Hours Sessions:

- **Monday February 26, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.** (remote only) Please use this link to register in advance:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZTuduiprjIiEtIXdE4I7BoTioyGjDeNuyu>
- **Thursday March 14, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.** (remote only) Please use this link to register in advance:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkcuutqTtPHN17Mi2IDNikh5m0e18NGZiR>
- **Wednesday April 3, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.** (remote only) Please use this link to register in advance:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtf-urrTgsH9R7AbCjaHaVDDate53XGEg6>
- **310 CMR 9.00** - The proposed regulatory text and a background document are available with a copy of this Public Hearing Notice on MassDEP's website at:
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-public-hearings-comment-opportunities>
- **310 CMR 10.00** MassDEP conducted three public information sessions and three public hearings in January-February 2024. The presentation materials and recordings are available on MassDEP's website and YouTube channel at
<https://www.mass.gov/regulations/310-CMR-1000-wetlands-protection-actregulations#proposed-amendments-public-comment>

310 CMR 9.00 - Written comments will be accepted through **5:00pm on April 30, 2024**. The Department encourages electronic submission by email to dep.waterways@mass.gov and must include Waterways Resilience Comments in the subject line. In lieu of electronic submittal, paper comments may be mailed to Daniel Padien, Attn: Waterways Resilience Comments, MassDEP-BWR, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114.

310 CMR 10.00 - Written comments will be accepted through **5:00pm on April 30, 2024**. The Department encourages electronic submission by email to dep.wetlands@mass.gov and must include Wetlands-401 Resilience Comments in the subject line. In lieu of electronic submittal, paper



a chapter of The American Institute of Architects

comments may be mailed to Lisa Rhodes, Attn: Wetlands-401 Resilience Comments, MassDEP – BWR,100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114.

New Regulations (02/12/24 – 03/12/24)

No new construction codes regulations were promulgated in this time period.