

MEMORANDUM

To: AIA MA GAC
From: John Nunnari
Date: 07/10/24
Re: Legislative and Regulatory Update

Legislative Update:**Since the last Update**

During a critical period in the legislative session, the small Senate Republican caucus, led by Sen. Ryan Fattman, gained significant influence by delaying the Senate's plan to consider a major energy and climate bill. By holding up the bill on consecutive days, Sen. Fattman secured a commitment from Senate leadership to schedule the bill's consideration and avoid further procedural delays, effectively granting the minority party some control over the legislative agenda that week. This maneuvering exemplifies the potential power of the minority party when leveraging parliamentary tools, suggesting that more frequent use of such tactics could disrupt the majority party's plans.

Massachusetts has launched a unique public marketing campaign aimed at discouraging new arrivals due to its strained shelter system and high cost of living. Governor Healey's administration has distributed flyers at points of entry along the Mexico border, warning of housing difficulties and legal support shortages. This comes as Massachusetts grapples with a full shelter system and prepares for a large influx of visitors for the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington. Meanwhile, the state legislature is actively working on significant climate tech and housing initiatives, while Governor Healey continues to support climate technology as a future economic driver for the state.

Governor Healey's recent trip to Washington D.C. followed a contentious debate between President Biden and former President Trump, leading Democrats to question Biden's performance and viability as a candidate. Gov. Healey reportedly told White House Chief of Staff Jeff Zients that Biden's political standing was "irretrievable," marking a significant shift from her previous support. Her absence from a subsequent White House press release expressing governor support for Biden, along with her cautious remarks about his candidacy, suggests a potential distancing from the president. This shift is significant given her ties to the current administration, compounded by her past opposition to Trump and the critical federal funding needed for Massachusetts. Meanwhile, other Democratic lawmakers have echoed calls for Biden to step aside, reflecting broader party concerns as the political landscape evolves ahead of the 2024 election.

Looking Forward

Senate Democrats are finalizing an economic development bond bill, while House Democrats are likely focusing on an energy and climate bill, prescription drug legislation, and other priorities as the legislative session nears its end. With the July 31 deadline approaching, there's a rush to complete complex bills that require time in conference committees. Legislative schedules suggest potential major deals, but both chambers must collaborate to align on health care policy and other issues where they currently differ. The House plans a formal session on Wednesday and the Senate on Thursday, with additional sessions possible if the budget conference committee reaches an agreement. As private budget talks continue, they limit the attention Ways and Means Committee chairs can give to other bills, with Speaker Mariano and President Spilka often relying heavily on these leaders for major negotiations.

To review minutes from previous GAC meetings or previous Legislative or Regulatory Reports, please click [here](#) and review the files located under the banner **2024 Government Affairs Committee Meeting Schedule**

AIA MA Bills

Since the last Legislative and Regulatory update:

- **High Priority** bills
 - 1 was attached favorably to a Joint Committee report
- **Medium Priority** bills
 - 2 were referred to Senate Committee on Rules
 - 4 sent to study
- **Low Priority** bills
 - 1 is awaiting a house floor vote
 - 1 was reported favorably to House W/M's
 - 1 was reported favorably to Senate W/M's
 - 2 was attached favorably to a Joint Committee report
 - 1 had an extension order filed
 - 6 were sent to study

To view the current status of all AIA MA tracked legislation, please click [here](#) and review the files located under the banner **Bills Tracked for the 2023-2024 Legislative Session**

Regulatory Update:

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

Notices of Public Review of Prospective Regulations (06/11/24 – 07/10/24)

No new Notices of Public Review of Prospective Regulations were issued during this period

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Board of Building Regulation and Standards (07/09 meeting)

The BBRS meeting minutes from April 30, May 14, and June 11, 2024, were reviewed and approved by the Board. The Board Counsel Report indicated that the 10th edition is still stuck in administrative review. The Executive Director reported that 1191 Construction Supervisor Licenses were issued in June with 11 renewals, and there were no waivers or reinstatements. The 11th Edition Subcommittee has begun discussing recommendations for the 11th edition, while the Solar Setback Subcommittee is awaiting a clear directive to address issues between building and fire officials. The Board discussed and voted on the 10th edition amendments concerning refrigerants, with public comments and proposals being considered, and a guidance document to be crafted by DOER staff.

Architectural Registration Board (No July meeting)

The next ARB meeting is scheduled for 08/20/2024