

**MEMORANDUM**

To: AIA MA GAC  
From: John Nunnari  
Date: 05/09/25  
Re: Legislative and Regulatory Update

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

As budget season opened, House lawmakers advanced a \$58 billion FY25 budget plan, proposing to spend \$1.6 billion more than the Governor's version, while leaning heavily on tax revenues from the state's new surtax on high earners. Despite broad agreement on education and transportation funding, lawmakers deferred many of the tougher debates. Meanwhile, a deepening focus on long-term school construction costs, student mental health, and higher ed sustainability continued to shape Beacon Hill discourse. Governor Healey and legislative leaders also pushed to finalize supplemental spending to cover shelters and housing programs amid rising migrant needs.

As May began, the House passed its budget with few surprises, emphasizing surtax allocations and one-time spending strategies that critics warned may not be sustainable. Tensions escalated with Washington over the impact of federal spending decisions and tax policies, leaving state leaders scrambling to assess potential risks. Debate continues over how best to preserve key services—like public transit and higher education—without overcommitting surtax dollars. At the same time, lawmakers mulled policy reforms and administrative restructuring proposals, from MSBA review commissions to climate and labor priorities, indicating that fiscal maneuvering will remain tightly linked to broader legislative goals.

**Looking Forward**

Looking ahead, lawmakers will hold a series of public hearings on issues ranging from primary care access and school aid to local control of alcohol licensing, while the Senate's \$61.3 billion FY26 budget proposal awaits floor debate. State regulators are expected to advance a draft framework for cannabis cafes, and municipal leaders will formalize new regional climate commitments. Legislative attention will also turn to a potential federal Medicaid overhaul, two special elections, and Governor Healey's upcoming energy affordability bill. Meanwhile, tensions persist over legislative rules reforms as a House-Senate conference committee continues its work, and new unemployment data is set to offer fresh insight into the state's economic outlook.

**AIA MA Bill Tracking**

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

A schedule of all Legislative Events can be found on the [Legislative Events](#) of AIA MA's website.

To review previous Legislative or Regulatory Reports or minutes from GAC meetings, 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.

There have been no **Notices of Public Review of Prospective Regulations** or new **Regulations** since the last Legislative and Regulatory Update dated 04/07/2025

CMR's tracked include: 105 CMR – State Sanitary Code; 225 CMR 22.00 – 26.00 – Energy Codes; 248 CMR – Plumbing/Gas Fitting Code; 257 CMR – Water Treatment; 271 CMR – Sheet Metal; 310 CMR – DEP; 314 CMR – Water Pollution Control; 521 CMR – Architectural Access; 522 CMR – Boiler Rules; 524 CMR – Elevator; 527 CMR – Fire Code; 528 CMR – Pipefitter and Refrigeration; 780 CMR – Building Code

Copies of all codes listed above can be found on the [State Boards and Construction Regulations](#) page of AIA MA's website

### **Board of Building Regulation and Standards**

At its May 13, 2025 meeting, the Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) re-elected Lisa Davey P.E. and David Riquinha as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, and approved meeting minutes from prior BBRS, Building Official Certification Committee (BOCC), and Building Code Appeals Board (BCAB) sessions. The Board discussed encouraging broader BBRS participation on the BCAB, especially from energy-sector representatives, while reinforcing that all members are eligible to serve and should participate fully on hearing panels. Updates from the BOCC included certification actions, continuing education approvals, and concerns over reporting lines for municipal building officials.

The meeting also featured a public hearing on a proposal to replace outdated NFPA 720 references in the code with NFPA 72, aligning with national standards. BBRS members and staff generally supported the change, and Jake Nunnemacher (Fire Services rep) volunteered to identify all impacted code sections for further review in June. The Solar Setback Subcommittee presented proposed amendments to harmonize conflicting fire and building code language for rooftop PV systems. While the proposals aimed to clarify permitting roles and streamline review processes, several BBRS members raised concerns about redundancy, enforcement confusion, and maintaining uniformity. The Board adopted the proposal, with friendly amendment modifications. The proposal will now move into the public hearing process.

### **MA Board of Registration of Architects (MBRA)**

At its April 29, 2025 meeting, the MBRA approved prior meeting minutes, received updates on the agency's relocation and staffing changes, and discussed recent efforts to reduce the backlog of license applications, now largely resolved. The Board reviewed proposed changes to NCARB's AXP guidelines and reaffirmed support for modernizing reporting requirements and expanding CEU provider eligibility. A probation case was closed after satisfactory receipt of overdue quarterly reports. In public comment, AIA MA Executive Director John Nunnari shared a significant update on ongoing negotiations with IIDA NE over commercial interior design licensure, including consensus draft language establishing a separate licensing board and clearly delineating the scope of practice to avoid overlap with architecture. The Board concluded with plans to revisit NCARB annual meeting resolutions and regulatory drafting in future sessions.

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