

Quality of Place related legislation
123rd Legislature, 2nd Session
February 26, 2008

LD [262](#) An Act To Amend the Credit for Rehabilitation of Historic Properties

Sponsors: Sen. Martin, Rep. Koffman

This bill would provide meaningful incentives for rehabilitating underutilized and abandoned buildings. The bill, as amended, enhances Maine's historic rehabilitation tax credit by increasing the amount of the credit to 25% of the expenditures incurred, allowing small projects (from \$50-250,000) to become eligible for the state tax credit and allowing the state tax credit to be fully refundable. The credit would sunset in 2013.

Work sessio: Thursday, Feb. 28th

A related bill, *LD 2008 – An Act To Provide Ongoing Funding for the Historic Preservation Tax Credit*, funds the credit through income and sales tax generated from the historic properties.

Work session: TBA

LD [885](#) An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Study the Costs of Providing Certain Services in the Unorganized Territories

This bill implements the recommendations of the Commission including: * Provides counties with authority to impose service fees for certain types of services provided in the unorganized territory. * Changes the method of assessing areas under the jurisdiction of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission for the cost of providing services in unorganized territory (fee equal to .014% of state valuation) vs. towns and plantations (fee equal to .025% of state valuation) reflecting a higher amount of commission activities in those areas. * Provides that the Commissioner of Education may not provide or reimburse parents for providing transportation for students over roads that have not been accepted by the county as public roads or that do not meet Department of Transportation standards.

Latest Committee Action: Voted January 17, 2008, Anticipated Divided Report (both "ought to pass as amended).

LD 1962 An Act to Amend the Informed Growth Act

Sponsor: Sen. Hastings

This bill adds an option for a municipality to waive the right to apply the provisions of the Informed Growth Act at any time by its legislative body. The bill also requires that if the vote was taken at a town meeting or by a city council, it must be approved by the citizens at a referendum.

Latest Committee Action: Voted February 6, 2008, Anticipated Divided Report. The majority voted "ought not to pass" with a letter establishing a stakeholder process to consider alternative language; the minority report "ought to pass as amended" will include amendment eliminating the referendum requirement).

LD 2082 An Act To Preserve Successful Historic Neighborhood Schools

Sponsor: Rep. Hinck

This bill allows the PUC and the State Board of Education to grant waivers from mandatory energy efficiency standards for schools on case-by-case basis.

Hearing held on February 12; work session not scheduled yet.

Resolve 46 Implementing State Model Building Code and Rehabilitation Code

A committee comprised of state agency officials has been working for 6 months to develop recommendations to implement uniform statewide building codes. The Committee presented recommendations to the Business, Research and Economic Development Committee (BRED) January 31. The BRED Committee will hear a bill to carry out the recommendations shortly.

Hearing: Tuesday, March 4th, 1 p.m. (tentative)

Committee on Future Maine Prosperity

This Legislative Committee met four times during the fall and released its report in January, '08. The report makes recommendations on Maine's business climate, workforce development, transportation, energy policy, innovation, quality of place, healthcare, government spending and taxation and legislative process. The committee endorsed the recommendations of the Quality of Place Council and sent a letter to the Governor asking him to submit legislation to implement them.

Governor's Council on Competitiveness and the Economy

The Governor has appointed a group of business leaders to provide leadership and advice on federal investment, trade and exports, R&D, workforce development, access to capital and strategies to make Maine's regulatory process more user friendly. The group has focused their discussions on efficiency in government, Maine's strategy as part of the larger region including Canada, and improvements to our regulatory system.