



Legislative Update: June 18, 2021

This was a whirlwind of a week for the Maine Legislature with most of their work completed for this session. Still to do: talk about money - a tough job anywhere. This means the Legislature will likely reconvene on June 30th, allowing the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs to focus on the budget, [LD 221](#), the Governor's plan to invest American Rescue Plan Funds, [LD 1733](#), and bills awaiting funding decisions on the Special Appropriations and Special Study Table. This will also be a time to vote on any vetoes the Governor puts forth and a variety of bond issues, including investments in transportation and Land for Maine's Future program.

You can search [here](#) to watch recordings of prior public hearings and work sessions. You can read GrowSmart Maine's testimony [here](#). See the status of our key bills [here](#).

Public hearings this week

None.

Follow Up On Earlier Public Hearings: Happenings in the Statehouse:

[LD 1312](#) "An Act To Remove Barriers to Accessory Dwelling Units and Allow Accessory Dwelling Units where Single-family Houses Are Allowed" sponsored by Rep. Geiger. **Bill Summary: *This bill requires municipalities to allow one accessory dwelling unit on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit and outlines certain limits to restrictions a municipality can place on tiny houses. It also addresses inspection requirements.*** In our testimony, we noted that accessory dwelling units (ADUs) are a valuable component of a community's effort to provide housing choices. ADUs offer a relatively straight forward, affordable option for accommodating housing needs that evolve from starter housing to aging-in place over a lifetime. We also highlighted one of our Community Guides, [Accessory Apartments, An Affordable Housing Strategy](#), provides ADU guidance for municipalities and links to our [ADU Ordinance Overview](#). provides valuable information on this topic.

THIS WEEK: The amended/corrected version of this bill, drafted by Maine Municipal Association and endorsed by GrowSmart Maine, was accepted in both the House and Senate. As noted in prior updates, there were misunderstandings within the committee process on the original amendment we worked with MMA to draft. ***The final version of the bill requires municipalities to allow one accessory dwelling unit as long as the***

unit complies with minimum shoreland zoning guidelines adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection, subject to locally adopted accessory dwelling unit land use requirements, and either the primary or accessory dwelling is owner-occupied. It prohibits a municipality from adopting an ordinance or regulation that circumvents the requirement.

Partnerships: In addition to the Maine Alliance for Smart Growth, we are working with two other collaborative efforts this session: We have joined **Climate Maine** to review and prioritize legislative proposals that fall within our policy priorities to ensure our advocacy is effectively coordinated with others. In addition we continue to lead the policy work of the [Maine Broadband Coalition](#), which will focus on several key funding and policy bills. Check out the [Broadband Policy Page](#) for testimony, value propositions for each committee, and recordings of the Broadband Caucus!