

Legislative Update: 14 Apr 19

Summaries derived from NHMA and General Court website

SB 152 - Third-Party Inspections for Planning Boards. SB 152 would require a planning board to solicit proposals from at least three qualified firms before hiring a third-party consultant to monitor compliance with conditions of approval during construction of an approved project. Rereferred to the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee until the fall.

SB 306 - Housing Appeals Board. The Senate passed SB 306 establishing a housing appeals board to hear appeals of local land use board decisions on housing development projects. The bill was then tabled presumably because it requires an appropriation of state funds. Sponsor cited the bill as helping workforce housing.

HB 312 - Tiny Houses. The bill as introduced would have required municipalities to allow “tiny houses” in any zoning district where single-family dwellings are allowed, and to make provisions for “tiny homes in group park settings.” The House passed an amended version that merely creates a legislative committee to study issues associated with state and local permitting of tiny houses.

HB 143 - Incompatible Offices. HB 143 would bar one person from serving on two different boards or committees within a municipality if the decisions of one of those boards or committees is appealable to the other. NHMA concerned about the effect of this bill, especially on small towns that often struggle to find volunteers to fill these positions.