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LEGISLATION WATCH LIST

February 15, 2008

CARRY OVER BILLS

Bill: **L.D. 262**, *An Act To Amend the Credit for Rehabilitation of Historic Properties*

Sponsor: Rep. Koffman

Committee: **Taxation**

Summary: This bill changes the amount of historic rehabilitation tax credit a taxpayer may take if the taxpayer received a credit under the United States Internal Revenue Code from an amount equal to the credit the taxpayer received under the Code to an amount equal to 25% of the expenditures incurred after December 31, 1999 for a certified historic structure. This bill also allows a historic rehabilitation tax credit for a taxpayer who did not receive a credit under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 25% of expenditures if the taxpayer expended from \$50,000 to \$250,000 on a certified historic structure. This bill makes the credit fully refundable and authorizes the State Historic Preservation Officer to establish a schedule of fees for the historic rehabilitation tax credit program, the proceeds of which will go to administering the program.

Work Session Date:

Status:

Comment:

Bill: **L.D. 1876**, *Resolve, Regarding the Maine State Cultural Building in Augusta*

Sponsor: **Rep. Barstow**

Committee: **State and Local Government**

Summary: This resolve amends Resolve 2005, chapter 168, which established a task force to develop a plan for the Maine State Cultural Building in Augusta. It adds to the existing membership of the task force representatives of the Department of Transportation and the judicial branch. It requires the task force to submit a 2nd report by November 15, 2007 with any recommendations regarding the cultural building. The bill also provides an appropriation of \$100,000 to contract with an architectural consultant and give the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government authority to submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

Committee Report: **Monday, February 4, 2008, OTP-AM**

Status:

Comment:

NEW BILLS

Bill: **L.D. 1981**, *An Act to Exempt Certain Facilities from Increased Fire Sprinkler Requirements*

Sponsor: Sen. Martin

Committee: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Summary: This bill grandfathers nonresidential buildings in existence on January 1, 2007 by exempting them from more stringent fire sprinkler requirements than those in effect on January 1, 2007. The bill also requires the Commissioner of Public Safety to make copies of the requirements in effect on January 1, 2007 available to the public.

Status: **Voted Friday, February 1, 2008, OTP-AM**

Comment:

Bill: **L.D. 1993**, *Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Review the Accountability of State Cultural Agencies.*

Sponsor: Sen. Martin

Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs

Summary: This resolve establishes the Commission To Review the Accountability of State Cultural Agencies and directs the commission to submit its report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by November 5, 2008.

Work Session Date: Friday, February 8, 2008, 9:00 am, Room 202 Cross Building

Status: **Not Reported Out** [voted Friday, February 8, 2008, ONTP]

Comment:

Bill: **L.D. 2008**, *An Act to Provide Ongoing Funding for the Historic Preservation Tax Credit*

Sponsors: Sen. Courtney

Committee: Taxation

Summary: This bill provides a source of funding for the income tax credit provided to persons who rehabilitate historic properties by earmarking for the credit all sales tax revenue generated at such rehabilitated properties and all income tax paid by persons employed at those rehabilitated properties.

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 1:00 pm, Room 127 State House

Work Session Date: **Thursday, February 28, 2008, 1:00 pm, Room 127 State House**

Status:

Comment:

Bill: **L.D. 2082**, *An Act to Preserve Successful Historic Neighborhood Schools*

Sponsor: Rep. Hinck

Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs

Summary: This bill allows the Public Utilities Commission and the State Board of Education to grant waivers from mandatory energy efficiency standards for building construction and renovation on a case-by-case basis for the renovation of historic school buildings. Under the bill, the Public Utilities Commission may grant a waiver from the mandatory energy standards for commercial construction to a local school authority that can demonstrate that a proposed renovation of a historic school building is in substantial compliance with the energy efficiency standards or that it provides substantial energy efficiency, education, social or environmental benefits over alternative proposals. The State Board of Education may grant a waiver from its school energy efficiency standards rules to a local school authority that has obtained a waiver from the mandatory energy standards for commercial construction from the Public Utilities Commission. The bill also directs the State Board of Education to amend its rules governing school energy efficiency standards to allow for such a waiver.

Hearing Date: **Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 1:00 pm, Room 202 Cross Building**

Work Session Date:

Status:

Comment: