



TOWN OF BAR HARBOR

Planning and Code Enforcement

93 Cottage Street
Bar Harbor, ME 04609-1400

Memorandum

To: Planning Board
From: Michele Gagnon
Date: September 1, 2023
Re: Increased Housing Opportunities proposed draft amendment

Attached is the draft Increase Housing Opportunity amendment (to comply with PL 2021). Also attached is the State's Guidance document, the State Law, the Rules, and the proposed Rules.

As the State has and continues to amend its rules; and as we are dedicated to making the ordinance simpler, not more complicated; and as the Bar Harbor Land Use Ordinance includes 40 zoning districts; and as a new Comprehensive Plan will soon be voted on; and as major revisions to the Land Use Ordinance may follow; therefore, we are proposing to comply with the law through the creation of a section in the Land Use Ordinance dedicated to "Increased Housing Opportunities," with its own set of definitions, and through the creation of overlays.

This law preempts municipalities from being more restrictive/stringent than State law. However, municipalities have the ability to be more permissive. I would keep in mind the importance of this amendment passing as, for Bar Harbor's form of government, this law becomes effective July 1, 2024.

At this time, we are not recommending any changes to the dimensional requirements of the ordinance.

As the town is working to increase its year-round housing stock, the Board could consider adding a provision where none of the dwelling units created through the implementation of the Increased Housing Opportunity provisions could be used as short-term rentals. Similar to what there is in the ordinance now for Bonus Dwelling Units.

We will have to proposed an amendment to delete all provisions pertaining to Bonus Dwelling Units.

In section (3), Increased density for affordable housing, the state allows for the Town to round up or down.

If a property owner tears down an existing dwelling unit, the State allows for the Town to treat the lot as if the dwelling unit was still in existence.

Proposed Increased Housing Opportunities Proposed Amendment

Article V Site Plan Review

125- 69 Standards for particular uses, structures or activities

BB. INCREASED HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

This section, effective July 1, 2024, complies with P.L. 2021, ch. 672, codified at 30-A M.R.S. §§ 4364, 4364-A, 4364-B and entitled an *Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions*, herein referred to as the *Act to Increase Housing Opportunities*.

The Act provides for three types of increased housing opportunity: 1) Increased density for affordable housing development; 2) Multiple dwelling units on lots designated for residential uses; and 3) Accessory dwelling units.

Article XII, Construction and Definitions, applies to this section with the exception of any terms that is specifically defined in subsection 6.

The three Housing Opportunity Overlay Districts presented below were created to comply with the Act to Increase Housing Opportunities.

(1) Housing Opportunity Overlay Districts.

The Housing Opportunity Overlays were created to comply with the Act to Increase Housing Opportunities. The Housing Opportunity Overlays are superimposed upon the underlying zoning districts of the Official Neighborhood District Map of Bar Harbor. There are three different

Housing Opportunity Overlays, as described below and depicted on the corresponding maps *Soon to Come.*

The descriptions and depictions of the Housing Opportunity Overlays are pursuant to the voter-adopted Town of Bar Harbor Comprehensive Plan for the Growth Area and the Rural Area (area of land not included in the Growth Area) and for the districts within the Growth Area where multi-family dwellings are allowed; and to lots located within the Rural Area not served by public water and sewer. The lots served by the Town's summer water lines are considered as not being served by public water. Where uncertainty exists as to the boundary lines of the overlays, the description of the overlay below shall prevail.

Any amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, or the adoption of a new Comprehensive Plan, with a different Growth Area would result in the automatic redefinition of the Housing Opportunity Growth Area Overlay and the Housing Opportunity Multi-Family Dwelling Overlay.

Any amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, or the adoption of a new Comprehensive Plan, with a different Rural Area, which consists of all land not included in the Growth Area, would result in the automatic redefinition of the Housing Opportunity Rural Area.

Any amendment to the districts located within the Growth Area where multi-family dwelling area allowed would result in the automatic redefinition of the Housing Opportunity Multi-Family Dwelling Overlay.

Any expansion to the Town's water and sewer areas would result in the automatic redefinition the Housing Opportunity Rural Area Overlay and of the Housing Opportunity Multi-Family Dwelling Overlay.

- (a) The Housing Opportunity Growth Area¹ Overlay, consisting of the Growth Area, is depicted on the map with the corresponding name.
- (b) The Housing Opportunity Rural Area Overlay, consisting of the Rural Area (land not included in the Growth Area), or lots that are not served by public water, or lots that are not served by public sewer, is depicted on the map with the corresponding name.
- (c) The Housing Opportunity Multi-Family Dwelling Overlay, consisting of the Growth Area described, or lots that are served by public water, or lots that are served by public sewer, is depicted on the map with the corresponding name.

(2) The provisions the Housing Opportunity Overlays do not:

- (a) Abrogate or annul the validity or enforceability of any valid and enforceable easement, covenant, deed restriction or other agreement or instrument between private parties that imposes greater restrictions, as long as the agreement does not abrogate rights pursuant to the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Maine;
- (b) Exempt development from the other requirements of this ordinance including, but not limited to, 125-69 N Subdivision, as well as from Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 4: Subdivisions;
- (c) Exempt an affordable housing development, a dwelling unit, or accessory dwelling unit from the shoreland zoning requirements/standards of this ordinance unless the requirements/standards are more stringent than established by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Title 38, Chapter 3; or
- (d) Abrogate or annul the minimum lot size requirements under Title 12, Chapter 423-A.

¹ Growth Areas are Designate Growth Areas meaning an area that is designated in the Town of Bar Harbor's Comprehensive Plan as suitable for orderly residential, commercial, or industrial development, or any combination of those types of development, and into which most development projected over ten years is directed.

(3) Increased density for affordable housing development

This section provides for automatic density bonus for certain affordable housing developments, as outlined below.

(A) Eligibility for density bonus

- [1] To be eligible for the density bonus, the development shall:
 - [a] Meet the definition of an Affordable Housing Development which includes the requirement that 51% of the units are affordable;
 - [b] Be located within the Housing Opportunity Multifamily Dwelling Overlay.
 - [c] Comply with the minimum lot size requirements under Title 12, Chapter 423-A;
 - [d] Comply with all shoreland zoning requirements.
 - [e] Connect to adequate water and wastewater services.
 - [f] For housing units connected to a well, the owner shall demonstrate that the water is potable and acceptable for domestic use.
 - [g] For rental housing, occupancy of all the units designated affordable in the development shall be restricted to households at or below 80% of the local area median income at the time of initial occupancy; and
 - [g] For owned housing, occupancy of all the units designated affordable in the development shall be restricted to households at or below 120% of the local area median income at the time of initial occupancy.
 - [h] Include a declaration of covenants, conditions and restrictions to be executed by the owner of the development that will restrict the affordability of the dwelling units to households that meet the above-stated income levels; impose a duration of affordability to no less than 30 years after the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy; identify a third-party, acceptable to the Bar Harbor Town Manager, responsible to enforce the elements of the declaration; and be recorded at the Hancock County Registry of Deeds.

(B) Density Bonus. The following bonuses apply for Affordable Housing Development that meet the eligibility for density bonus requirements:

[1] A dwelling unit density of at least 2.5 times the base density that is otherwise allowed in the underlying district. If fractional results occur when calculating the density bonus, the number of units is rounded down to the nearest whole number; and

[2] In all zoning districts a minimum of 0.33 parking spaces per dwelling unit of an Affordable Housing Development shall be provided with the exception of development in the Downtown Village I, Downtown Village II, and Downtown Village Transitional where parking spaces are not required. If fractional results occur when calculating the number of parking spaces, the number of spaces shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number.

(4) MULTIPLE DWELLING UNITS ON LOTS DESIGNATED FOR HOUSING

This section provides for multiple dwelling units on lots where residential uses are allowed, and dependent on whether a dwelling unit is already on the lot and on the location of the lot, subject to the requirements below. All other requirements and standards of the Land Use Ordinance apply including dimensional, parking and shoreland zoning requirements. Also applicable are private regulations such as the one found in deed recorded conditions, covenants, and restrictions.

(a) Requirements

[1] In the Housing Opportunity Growth Area Overlay, up to four dwelling units shall be allowed per lot if:

[a] The lot is located in a district where residential use is allowed, and

[b] There is not an existing dwelling unit on the lot; and

[c] The lot meets the State minimum lot size requirements under Title 12, Chapter 423-A.

[2] In the Housing Opportunity Rural Overlay, up to two dwelling units per lot,

located within one structure or located in two separate structures, shall be allowed if:

[a] The lot is located in a district where residential use is allowed, and

[b] The lot meets the State minimum lot size requirements under Title 12, Chapter 423-A.

[3] If a lot already contains one existing dwelling unit, the addition of up to two additional dwelling units shall be allowed. The additional dwelling unit(s) may be:

[a] Within the existing structure or attached to the existing structure;

[b] Detached from the existing structure; or

[c] One of each.

[d] If a lot already contains two existing dwelling units, no additional dwelling units may be built on the lot unless allowed in the underlying district.

[e] Dwelling units must be connected to adequate water and wastewater.

[f] For dwelling units connected to a well, the water must be potable and acceptable for domestic use.

[g] The number of dwelling units on a lot may be restricted through private easement, covenant, deed restriction or other agreement provided the agreement does not violate State or Federal rights such as equal protection.

(5) ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

This section provides one accessory dwelling unit to be located on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit in which residential uses are permitted subject to the requirements outlined below.

(a) REQUIREMENTS

[1] The accessory dwelling units must be:

[a] Within an existing dwelling unit on the lot;

[b] Attached to or sharing a wall with a single-family dwelling unit; or

[c] A new structure.

- [d] Within an existing accessory building or a secondary building or a garage.
- [2] A least one accessory dwelling unit is allowed on any lot where a single-family dwelling unit is the principal structure.
- [3] If there is more than one accessory dwelling unit on a lot, as a result of the provisions in the Multiple Dwelling Units on Lots Designated for Residential Uses, of this section, the lot is not eligible for any additional increases in density, except as allowed in the district.
- [4] An accessory dwelling unit is allowed on a non-conforming lot if the accessory dwelling unit does not further the increase in non-conformity.
- [5] The accessory dwelling unit is exempt from density requirements and lot area requirements to include, but not limited.
- [6] The accessory dwelling unit located within the same structure as a single-family dwelling unit or attached to a single-family dwelling unit must meet the same dimensional requirements with the exception of density requirements.
- [7] The accessory dwelling unit located in an existing accessory building or a secondary building or a garage must meet the setback requirements of the existing accessory building or secondary building.
- [8] The accessory dwelling unit is not be subject to parking requirements.
- [9] The accessory dwelling unit must be at least 190 square feet in size, unless the Technical Building Code and Standards Board, pursuant to 10 M.R.S. § 9722, adopts a different minimum standard; if so, that standard applies.

[10] Dwelling units must be connected to adequate water and wastewater.

[11] For dwelling units connected to a well, the water must be potable and acceptable for domestic use.

6. Definitions

Article XII applies to this section (125-69 BB) unless the term is specifically defined below.

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT — A self-contained dwelling unit located within, attached to or detached from a single-family dwelling unit located on the same parcel of land. An accessory dwelling unit must be a minimum of 190 square feet.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

1. For rental housing, a development in which a household whose income does not exceed 80% of the median income for the area as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the *United States Housing Act of 1937*, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8, as amended, can afford 51% or more of the units in the development without spending more than 30% of the household's monthly income on housing costs; and
2. For owned housing, a development in which a household whose income does not exceed 120% of the median income for the area as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the *United States Housing Act of 1937*, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8, as amended, can afford 51% or more of the units in the development without spending more than 30% of the household's monthly income on housing costs.
3. For purposes of this definition, Housing Costs include, but are not limited to:
 - a) For a rental unit, the cost of rent and any utilities (electric, heat, water, sewer, and/or trash) that the household pays separately from the rent; and
 - b) For an ownership unit, the cost of mortgage principal and interest, real estate taxes

(including assessments), private mortgage insurance, homeowner's insurance, condominium fees, and homeowners' association fees.

AREA MEDIAN INCOME — The midpoint of a region's income distribution calculated on an annual basis by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

ATTACHED — Connected by a shared wall to the principal structure or having physically connected finished spaces.

BASE DENSITY — The maximum number of units allowed on a lot not used for affordable housing based on dimensional requirements in this Land Use Ordinance. This does not include density bonuses, transferable development rights, or other similar means that could increase the density of lots not used for affordable housing.

CENTRALLY MANAGED WATER SYSTEM — A water system that provides water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances to at least 15 service connections or serves an average of at least 25 people for at least 60 days a year as regulated by 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 231, *Rules Relating to Drinking Water*. This water system may be privately owned.

COMPARABLE SEWER SYSTEM — Any subsurface wastewater disposal system that discharges over 2,000 gallons of wastewater per day as regulated by 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 241, *Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules*.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN — A document or interrelated documents consistent with 30-A M.R.S. § 4326(1)-(4), including the strategies for an implementation program which are consistent with the goals and guidelines established pursuant to Title 30-A Chapter 187 Subchapter II.

DENSITY REQUIREMENTS — The maximum number of dwelling units allowed on a lot and the minimum area per family, subject to dimensional requirements.

DESIGNATED GROWTH AREA — An area that is designated in the Bar Harbor Comprehensive Plan as suitable for orderly residential, commercial, or industrial development, or any combination of those types of development, and into which most development projected over 10 years is directed.

Designated growth areas may also be referred to as priority development zones or other terms with a similar intent.

DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS — Requirements which govern the size and placement of structures including, but limited not to, the following requirements: building height, lot area, minimum frontage and lot depth.

DUPLEX — A structure containing two dwelling units.

DWELLING UNIT — Any part of a structure which, through sale or lease, is intended for human habitation, including single-family and multifamily housing, condominiums, time-share units, and apartments.

EXISTING DWELLING UNIT — A residential unit in existence on a lot at the time of submission of a permit application to build additional units on that lot.

LOT — A single parcel of developed or undeveloped land.

MULTIFAMILY DWELLING — A structure containing three or more dwelling units.

POTABLE — Safe for drinking as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Drinking Water Standards and Health Advisories Table and Maine's interim drinking water standards for six different perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), *Resolve 2021 Chapter 82, Resolve, To Protect Consumers of Public Drinking Water by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Level for Certain Substances and Contaminants.*

PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE — A structure in which the main or primary use of the structure is conducted. For purposes of this rule, principal structure does not include commercial buildings.

QUADPLEX — A structure containing four dwelling units.

RESIDENTIAL USE — A use permitted to be used for human habitation. Residential uses may include single-family, duplex, triplex, quadplex, and other multifamily housing; condominiums; time-

share units; and apartments. The following uses are not included under this definition: (1) Dormitories, Shared-Accommodations 1, 2, and 3, and Employee Living quarters; (2) Congregate Housing; (3) Campgrounds, campsites, hotels, motels, all beds and breakfast, all transient accommodations, or other types of lodging accommodations; and (4) dwelling units used as short-term rentals.

RESTRICTIVE COVENANT — A provision in a deed, or other covenant conveying real property, restricting the use of the land.

SETBACK REQUIREMENTS — The minimum horizontal distance from a lot line, shoreline, or road to the nearest part of a structure, or other regulated object or area as defined in local ordinance.

SHORELAND ZONING REQUIREMENTS — The sections of the Land Use Ordinance relating to shoreland zoning as in Title 38 Chapter 3, including, but not limited to, 125-36, 125-47, 125-48, 125-49, 125-49.1, 125-49.2, 125-49.3, 125-50, and 125-68.

SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING UNIT — A structure containing one dwelling unit.

STRUCTURE — Anything temporarily or permanently located, built, constructed or erected for the support, shelter or enclosure of persons as defined in 38 M.R.S. §436-A(12).

TRIPLEX — A structure containing three dwelling units.

ZONING ORDINANCE — A type of land use ordinance that divides a municipality into districts and that prescribes and reasonably applies different regulations in each district.

LD 2003 Guidance



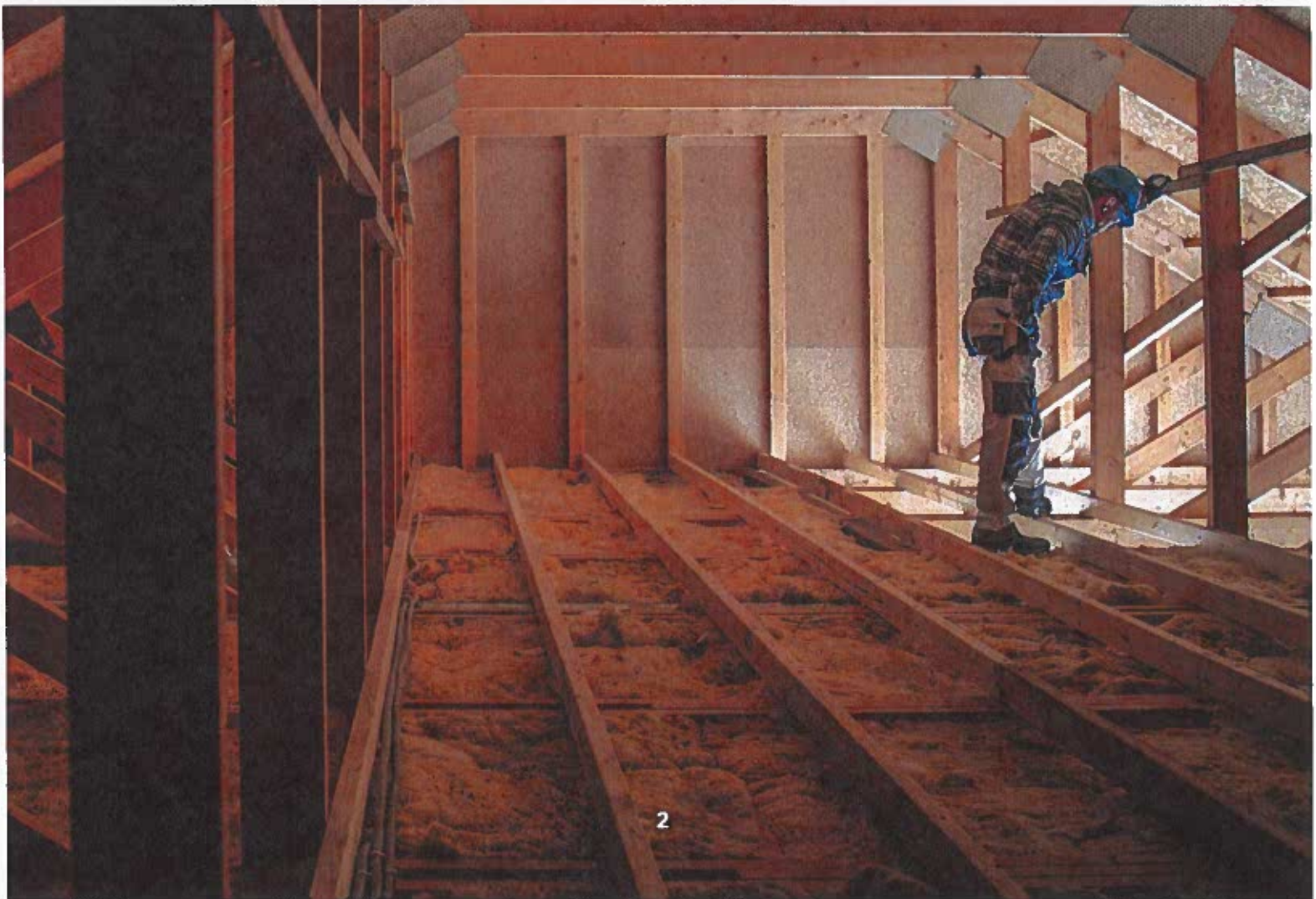
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

LD 2003 Guidance

“An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions,” generally referred to by its legislative tracking name of LD 2003, was signed into law by Governor Mills on April 27, 2022. This law is designed to remove unnecessary

regulatory barriers to housing production in Maine, while preserving local ability to create land use plans and protect sensitive environmental resources. LD 2003 is based on the recommendations of the legislative commission named in the title, though not all those recommendations are included in the enacted legislation.

This guidance is the result of a collaborative effort by the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; legislative staff, and several municipal lawyers and community planners. It is intended to provide information for local authorities to use in determining how LD 2003 affects their local zoning and land use codes, as well as what steps they can take if they wish to tailor their ordinances to avoid conflicts with state laws. This guidance is not legally binding or intended to serve as a substitute for the language of LD 2003 or the rule that will be adopted. It represents the interpretation of LD 2003 and the proposed rule, as well as its requirements by the state agencies that are responsible for its implementation. This guidance may be updated once the rule is adopted.





LD 2003 has the following sections that are relevant to municipal government. The amended sections of state law are shown in the chart below. Among other things:

1. Section 4 allows for additional density for “affordable housing developments” in certain areas.
2. Section 5 generally requires that municipalities allow between two and four housing units per lot where housing is permitted.
3. Section 6 requires that municipalities allow accessory dwelling units to be located on the same lot as a single-family home, under certain conditions.
4. Sections 3 and 7 require that the state establish statewide and regional housing production goals and set forth ways in which local governments can coordinate with that goal.

WHILE LD 2003 WENT INTO EFFECT ON AUGUST 8, 2022, SOME ELEMENTS OF THE LAW ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE APPLIED UNTIL JULY 1, 2023

LD 2003 in Brief	
<p>Effective Aug. 8, 2022</p> <p>Statewide Housing Production Goals</p> <p>(5 MRS §13056, sub-59)</p>	<p>Effective Aug. 8, 2022</p> <p>Municipal Role in Fair Housing/ Short Term Rentals</p> <p>(7 30-A MRS §4364-C)</p>
<p>Effective July 1, 2023</p> <p>Accessory Dwelling Units</p> <p>(6 30 A MRS §4364-B)</p>	<p>Effective July 1, 2023</p> <p>Two to Four Units</p> <p>(5 30-A MRS §4364-A)</p>
<p>Effective July 1, 2023</p> <p>Affordable Housing Density in Growth Areas Bonus</p> <p>(4 30-A MRS §4364)</p>	

IN GENERAL, AS LONG AS THESE ACTIONS ARE CONSISTENT WITH LD 2003, MUNICIPALITIES MAY:

CONTINUE to develop Growth Management programs, including comprehensive plans and zoning consistent with those plans

ENFORCE local shoreland zoning ordinances consistent with state shoreland zoning law

REGULATE how many square feet of land are needed for each dwelling unit (other than accessory dwelling units)

CONDUCT site plan review, if authorized by local ordinances, of any residential development

REGULATE the maximum size of accessory dwelling units

REGULATE short-term rentals in their community

CREATE rate of growth ordinances so long as they do not limit the number of accessory dwelling units outlined in Section 6

CREATE local ordinances that are more permissive for residential housing development than the requirements of LD 2003

REGULATE housing development based on documented water and wastewater capacity constraints

IN GENERAL, UNDER THIS LAW, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MAY NOT:

ENACT local ordinances that allow housing but limit it to one unit per lot

PROHIBIT one accessory dwelling unit per lot or count those units towards a rate of growth ordinance

LIMIT the affordable housing density bonuses allowed in LD 2003 in growth areas as defined in state law

Affordable Housing Density Bonus

30-A MRSA §4364

This section creates an automatic density bonus for certain affordable housing developments. To qualify for this bonus, the development must:

1. Be approved after June 30, 2023
2. Include a certain number of rent or sales price restricted affordable housing units
3. Be in a growth area under section 4349-A, subsection 1, paragraph A or B, or served by water and sewer
4. Be in an area in which multifamily dwellings are allowed
5. Meet shoreland zoning requirements, meet minimum lot sizes if using subsurface waste disposal, and verify that water and sewer capacity is adequate for the development

BONUSES FOR AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

To take advantage of this density bonus, a development must qualify as "affordable" (as defined below). If eligible, the affordable housing development qualifies for the following exceptions to the zoning requirements in the community:

1. The number of units allowed will be 2.5 times the number allowed for a development not designated affordable.
2. The off-street parking requirements may not exceed two spaces for every three units

So, for example, if a developer can build up to six units on a site under local rules, and designates the development as affordable, the developer would be eligible to build 15 units (6×2.5). The local off-street parking requirement for this development could not exceed ten spaces ($15 \times 2/3$). In cases of fractional results, the number of units would generally be rounded down, but the municipality has discretion to round the number of parking spaces either up or down to the nearest whole number.



WHAT REQUIREMENTS DO AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS HAVE TO MEET TO RECEIVE THE DENSITY BONUS?

For rentals, a household with an income at no more than 80% of the area median income for the community, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, must be able to afford more than half of the units in the development. That means that rent and certain other housing expenses will not require more than 30% of the household's income.

For homeownership projects, a household with an income at no more than 120% of the area median income for the community, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, must be able to afford more than half of the units in the development. That means that mortgage payments (including mortgage insurance) and certain other housing expenses will not require more than 30% of the household's income.

The units that will be affordable at these levels must be restricted through a restrictive covenant that is enforceable by a party acceptable to the municipality (which could be the municipality) for at least 30 years, and that states that the units must be restricted in rent or sales prices accordingly. Often these developments will be getting funding through MaineHousing, which typically requires a comparable covenant.

Information on Area Median Incomes is updated annually by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. For reference, MaineHousing maintains updated 80% of area median income and 120% of area median income data on their website.

[View AMI data on MaineHousing.org](https://www.mainehousing.org)



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING DENSITY BONUS

This guidance represents the interpretation of LD 2003 and the proposed rule language. This guidance may be updated once the rule is adopted.

What is meant by “multifamily dwellings?”

“Multifamily dwellings” is defined in rule.

What is a “base density that is otherwise allowed?”

Under a local zoning code, the “base density that is otherwise allowed” is the maximum number of units allowed based on dimensional requirements, such as lot area per dwelling unit. This is defined in rule.

If lot area per dwelling unit can be used as a measure of number of units permitted, do the limits on lot area per dwelling unit requirements in Section 5 apply?

No, Section 5’s provision about “lot area per dwelling unit,” 30-A M.R.S. § 4364-A(3), does not apply to Section 4. Therefore, municipalities have the discretion to designate lot area per dwelling unit when approving “affordable housing developments.” Municipalities, however, must comply with the minimum lot size requirements stated in Title 12, chapter 423- A, as applicable.

Does LD 2003 apply to municipalities that do not use the term “designated growth area,” but instead use a different term for growth districts in comprehensive plans.

Yes. LD 2003 applies to a municipality that has adopted a different term to mean a “designated growth area” in its comprehensive plan.

What if a household exceeds the maximum income after living in the unit?

LD 2003 specifies that the income eligibility is based on household income “at the time of initial occupancy,” meaning that a household could be allowed to remain in an “affordable” unit if their income goes up after they occupy the unit. MaineHousing has experience with this issue, as do communities that manage their own affordable housing programs, so there may be best practices that can be adopted locally. The restrictive covenants should outline how this would work.

What happens when a restricted affordable home ownership unit is sold?

The restrictive covenants should outline how this would work. MaineHousing has experience with this issue, as do communities that manage their own affordable housing programs, so there may be best practices that can be adopted locally.

How does this density bonus interact with any local density bonus that might exist?

A municipality may apply its local density bonus to “affordable housing developments” instead of the density bonus stated in 30-A M.R.S § 4364, as long as the municipality’s local density bonus is equally or more permissive. More permissive, for purposes of this comparison, means that a local density bonus must be more generous and permissive in regard to each of the requirements described in the LD 2003 density bonus. The density bonus also applies to “affordable housing developments” in municipalities that have not adopted density requirements, as long as the development meets the requirements of 30-A M.R.S. § 4364.



Residential Areas, Generally; Up to 4 Dwelling Units

30-A MRSA §4364-A

This section requires municipalities to allow multiple dwelling units on parcels where housing is allowed, provided evidence of sufficient water and wastewater capacity exists, beginning on July 1, 2023. Municipalities may not apply different dimensional requirements to lots with more than one housing unit on them than they would to a lot with one housing unit, with the exception that they may require a minimum lot area per dwelling unit. However, if the municipality chooses to require a minimum lot area per dwelling unit, the lot area required may not be less for the first unit than for subsequent units.

The number of units allowed under this section depends on a few factors:

- A lot without a dwelling unit already on it can have two units if it is not within a designated growth area under section 4349-A, subsection 1, paragraph A or B, served by water system and sewer in a municipality without a comprehensive plan.
- A lot with an existing dwelling unit may have up to two additional dwelling units, either one additional attached dwelling unit, one additional detached dwelling unit, or one of each.
- A lot without a dwelling unit already on it can have four units if it is either:
 - Within a designated growth area under section 4349-A, subsection 1, paragraph A or B, or
 - Served by water system and sewer in a municipality without a comprehensive plan.

Municipalities may allow more than the minimum number required to be allowed on all lots that allow housing, if they wish. In addition, private parties are permitted to restrict the number of housing units on a lot in a private easement, covenant, deed restriction or other agreement provided the agreement does not violate State or Federal rights such as equal protection.

Finally, a municipality may determine in local ordinance that if a property owner tears down an existing dwelling unit, the lot may be treated under this section as if the dwelling unit were still in existence.



Lot Area per Dwelling Unit

Additional units may not require more land area per unit than the first unit

NOT PERMITTED



One Unit Requires
10,000 sq ft



Two Units Require
30,000 sq ft



Three Units Require
50,000 sq ft

PERMITTED



One Unit
Requires
10,000 sq ft



Two Units
May Require Up
To 20,000 sq ft



Three Units
May Require Up
To 30,000 sq ft

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON RESIDENTIAL AREAS, GENERALLY UP TO 4 DWELLING UNITS

This guidance represents the interpretation of LD 2003 and the proposed rule language. This guidance may be updated once the rule is adopted.

Subsection 2 (“Zoning Requirements”) says that municipal zoning ordinances “must” comply with certain conditions, but subsection B. says that they “may” regulate how this section applies to a lot where a dwelling unit is torn down. Is this a “must” or a “may”?

Municipalities have the option of taking the actions in subsection B but do not have to do so, in which case a lot where a dwelling unit was torn down would be viewed as a vacant lot.

Subsection 4 says that verification must be provided to “the municipality” of water and wastewater services. Who should that verification be provided to?

These capacity issues should be reviewed by the municipal staff or board that would normally review these issues as part of any housing development.

What if a municipality does not use Certificates of Occupancy?

Subsection 4 says that the municipality will “certify [a] structure for occupancy.” This requirement should be met for new housing developments under this section the same way they would be for any other housing.

Does LD 2003 establish minimum dimensional requirements for dwelling units under this section?

Yes, a municipality cannot establish dimensional requirements for additional dwelling units on a lot that are more restrictive than dimensional requirements for a single-family unit, except that a municipal ordinance may establish requirements for a lot area per dwelling unit as long as the required lot area for subsequent units on a lot is not greater than the required lot area for the first unit.

Section 5 requires a municipality to allow up to two dwelling units per lot if that lot contains an “existing dwelling unit.” What does “existing dwelling unit” mean?

“Existing dwelling unit” means a dwelling unit in existence on a lot at the time of submission of a permit application to build additional units on that lot. If a municipality does not have a permitting process, the dwelling unit on a lot must be in existence at the time construction begins for additional units on a lot.

What is meant by “potable” water?

This is addressed in rule.

What if housing is allowed in an area but only as a conditional use?

Housing would be considered allowed in that area for the purposes of subsection 1. A conditional use shall be viewed as a permitted use.

What does “attached to an existing structure” mean?

The rule defines the word “attached.” Municipalities are not required to adopt this definition in local ordinance, but must adopt a definition that is consistent with, and no more restrictive, than the definition in rule.

Does the language in subsection 1 mean that if a lot is served by water and sewer in a municipality without a comprehensive plan that it does not need to be vacant to allow up to 4 units?

No, that language still requires the lot not “contain an existing dwelling unit.”

What does “any area which housing is allowed” mean?

This phrase requires municipalities to allow multiple dwelling units on a lot located in any area allowing residential uses, regardless of zoning district designation. This does not include congregate living settings, lodging homes, residence halls, or other similar types of buildings.

Does LD 2003 apply to municipalities with comprehensive plans that have expired findings?

Yes. An expired finding does not invalidate a locally adopted comprehensive plan or invalidate ordinances, but it could provide an opening for a party to challenge the ordinance in court. Consultation with legal counsel is recommended.

Do the provisions of LD 2003 that mention “designated growth areas” apply to a municipality that does not use the term “designated growth area,” but instead uses a related term for growth districts in its comprehensive plan?

Yes. LD 2003’s provisions apply to a municipality that does not use the term “designated growth area” but instead uses a related term to mean growth districts in its comprehensive plan.

Residential Areas

Empty Lot Where Housing Is Already Allowed

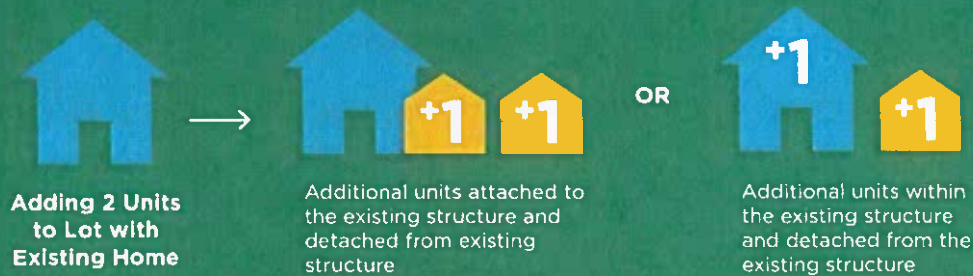
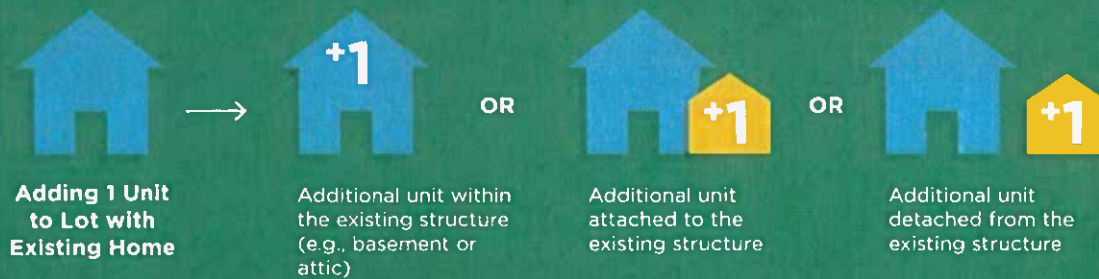


NOTE: The three and four units can be within one structure or multiple structures.

THREE AND FOUR UNITS ALLOWED IF:

- Located in "growth area" consistent with section 4349-A, subsection 1, paragraph A or B.
- Located in area with existing water/sewer capabilities in towns without comprehensive plans.

Existing Home



What Can Be Built On This Lot?

ON LAND WITH ZERO EXISTING UNITS

▶ In a growth area consistent with section 4349-A, subsection 1, paragraph A or B, with public water and sewer in municipality without a comprehensive plan

▶ Outside growth area

▶ Up to 2 dwelling units, if attached

▶ Up to 4 dwelling units, detached or attached

ON LAND WITH ONE EXISTING UNIT

▶ Up to 2 additional dwelling units

▶ Choose:
 a. One unit within or attached
 b. One unit detached
 c. One of each

▶ 1 accessory dwelling unit

▶ Exempt from:
 a. Rate of growth ordinances
 b. Additional density area/standards
 c. Additional parking requirements

ON LAND WITH TWO EXISTING UNITS

▶ No new structure may be built unless allowed under local ordinance

PRIVATE, STATE OR LOCAL STANDARDS SUCH AS THESE MAY APPLY:

- Home Owners Association regulations
- Deed restrictions
- Lot size, set back, density (not greater than single family)
- Septic requirements
- Minimum Lot Size
- Additional Parking requirement
- Growth ordinance permits
- Shoreland Zoning
- Subdivision Law

PRIVATE, STATE OR LOCAL STANDARDS SUCH AS THESE MAY APPLY:

- Home Owners Association regulations
- Deed restrictions
- Lot size or set back requirements (not greater than single family/existing accessory structure)
- Septic requirements
- Shoreland Zoning
- Other locally determined ADU standards (e.g. maximum size, rules regarding short term rental, etc.)

Accessory Dwelling Units

30-A MRSA §4364-B

This section essentially allows any lot with a single-family dwelling in an area where housing is permitted to have one accessory dwelling unit (ADU) as well, effective July 1, 2023. That ADU can be within the existing home, attached to it, or in a new structure. Municipalities may also allow existing accessory structures to be converted into an ADU

An ADU allowed under this law is exempt from zoning density requirements. In reviewing an ADU, the setback and dimensional requirements for a single-family home continue to apply unless the municipality makes them more permissive for an ADU. For ADUs in an accessory structure, the setback and dimensional requirements for such a structure apply.

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT PARKING

Additional parking requirements for the ADU beyond those required for the single-family dwelling are not permitted.

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT SIZE

ADUs must be at least 190 square feet in size. Municipalities may set a maximum size for ADUs in local ordinance.

OTHER MUNICIPAL POWERS

Municipalities may establish an application and permitting process for ADUs provided it is consistent with in this section. Municipalities may also define ADUs, as long as the definition is consistent with state law in Title 30-A, §4301. 1-C. In addition, municipalities may establish requirements for ADUs that are less restrictive than those in this section, such as allowing more than one ADU on a lot or allowing an ADU for two-family or multifamily dwellings.

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES FROM OTHER SECTIONS

LIKE SECTIONS 4 AND 5, shoreland zoning still applies, as do requirements to verify adequate water and wastewater capacity.

LIKE SECTION 5, private parties are permitted to restrict the number of housing units on a lot, including ADUs, in a private easement, covenant, deed restriction or other agreement provided the agreement does not violate State or Federal rights such as equal protection.

UNLIKE SECTION 5, one ADU for each single-family dwelling does not count towards any rate of growth ordinance as described in §4360.

UNLIKE SECTIONS 4 & 5, additional parking cannot be required for an ADU.

UNLIKE SECTION 5, a municipality may not establish requirements for minimum lot area for the addition of an ADU on a lot with an existing single-family home.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

This guidance represents the interpretation of LD 2003 and the proposed rule language. This guidance may be updated once the rule is adopted.

How is an ADU defined?

LD 2003 does not define ADU. There is a definition in 30-A MRSA §4301 and many communities define them in local ordinances. This is addressed in rule.

Can an ADU be larger than a primary structure?

Yes, unless the municipality limits the maximum size of an ADU.

Can a previously illegal ADU be legalized under this section?

Yes, as long as an ADU owner follows the permitting procedures and life safety requirements outlined by their municipality (if applicable).

If a pre-existing single-family dwelling is on a non-conforming lot (with respect to size, frontage, or similar characteristics) can an ADU be built on that lot?

An accessory dwelling unit may be allowed on a lot regardless of whether the lot conforms to existing dimensional requirements of the municipality. Any new structure constructed on the lot as an accessory dwelling unit must meet the existing dimensional requirements as required by the municipality for an accessory structure.

Subsection 7 says that verification must be provided to “the municipality” of water and wastewater services. Who should that verification be provided to?

These capacity issues should be reviewed by the municipal staff or board that would normally review these issues as part of any housing development.

What does “in any area in which housing is permitted” mean?

This phrase requires municipalities to allow one accessory dwelling unit on any lot with a single-family dwelling unit located in an area allowing residential uses, regardless of zoning district designation. This does not include congregate living settings, lodging homes, residence halls, or other similar types of buildings.

If a parcel has an existing two-unit structure, does subsection 1 allow an ADU to be built?

No, though a municipality would have the ability to allow that.

What if a community does not use Certificates of Occupancy?

Subsection 4 says that the municipality will “certify [a] structure for occupancy.” This requirement should be met for new housing developments under this section the same way they would be for any other housing, whether through a formal Certificate of Occupancy or otherwise.

What is meant by “potable” water?

This is addressed in rule.

What if housing is allowed in an area but only as a conditional use?

Housing would be considered allowed in that area for the purposes of subsection 1. A conditional use shall be viewed as a permitted use.

What does “attached to an existing structure” mean?

The rule defines the word “attached.” Municipalities are not required to adopt this definition in local ordinance, but must adopt a definition that is consistent with, and no more restrictive, than the definition in rule.

LD 2003 allows an ADU to be built that is “a new structure on the lot for the primary purpose of creating an accessory dwelling unit.” What does this mean?

This provision allows a new structure to be built on a lot with an existing single-family dwelling unit, as long as the main reason for building the structure is to support human habitation. Local ordinance can define primary purpose further.

Can a municipality require lot area requirements for the addition of an ADU on a lot with an existing single-family home?

No. A municipality must exempt an ADU from density and lot area requirements. The setback and other dimensional requirements, however, continue to apply unless the municipality makes this more permissive for an ADU.

Section 6 allows for the construction of an ADU within an “existing dwelling unit.” What does “existing dwelling unit” mean?

“Existing dwelling unit” means a dwelling unit in existence on a lot at the time of submission of a permit application to build an additional unit on that lot. If a municipality does not have a permitting process, the dwelling unit on a lot must be in existence at the time construction begins for an additional unit on a lot.

Parking for ADUs

Example Parking Requirement

NOT PERMITTED



Single Family Home
2 spaces minimum



Single Family Home + ADU
3 spaces minimum



PERMITTED



Single Family Home
2 spaces minimum



Single Family Home + ADU
2 spaces minimum



This example applies to towns with minimum parking requirements.
For towns without parking restrictions, no additional restrictions would be imposed.

Housing Goals & Fair Housing

MRSA §13056, sub-§9 AND 30-A MRSA §4364-C

Section 3 directs the Department of Economic & Community Development, in coordination with Maine-Housing, to develop a statewide housing production goal and regional production goals based on that statewide goal. In doing so, the section instructs the Department to set benchmarks for meeting those goals, as well as to consider information provided by municipalities on current and potential housing development and permits.

Section 7 outlines ways municipalities can play a role in achieving those state and regional goals. It states that municipalities must ensure that local ordinances and regulations are designed to affirmatively further the purposes of the Federal Fair Housing Act, as well as the Maine Human Rights Act, as part of meeting the housing goals. It also explicitly authorizes municipalities to establish and enforce regulations related to short-term rentals to help meet those goals.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON SECTIONS 3 & 7

This guidance represents the interpretation of LD 2003 and the proposed rule language. This guidance may be updated once the rule is adopted.

What obligations do the affirmatively furthering fair housing provisions put on municipalities that didn't already exist before LD 2003 passed?

Until recently, the link between land use regulation and fair housing was often not recognized. Section 7 clarifies that municipalities must ensure that zoning and land use ordinances and regulations are designed to affirmatively further the purposes of these state and federal laws.

What happens if local, regional or statewide housing goals are not met?

These sections do not set forth any specific penalties for not meeting these goals.

How does this relate to local Growth Management programs and comprehensive plans?

Local comprehensive plans, while not regulatory documents, should not conflict with these sections. The regulations for comprehensive plans under Chapter 208 state that communities should "[s]eek to achieve a level of at least 10% of new residential development built or placed during the next decade be affordable."

Do municipalities have to regulate short term rentals?

No.



GENERAL QUESTIONS

This guidance represents the interpretation of LD 2003 and the proposed rule language. This guidance may be updated once the rule is adopted.

What happens if a municipality does not act to update local ordinances, or tries to act and the updates are not approved by the local legislative body?

LD 2003 is an express preemption on municipal home rule authority. Therefore, any ordinance or regulation that is not consistent with the law may be challenged as invalid. Municipalities are encouraged to contact legal counsel to discuss how the law will affect the enforcement of existing ordinances and regulations.

If a town does not have growth areas as defined by section 4349-A, subsection 1, paragraph A or B, and does not have any areas served by water or sewer, does it need to comply with LD 2003?

These communities would not be subject to the affordable housing density provisions in Section 4, and would not have areas that are required to allow up to four units on a residential lot as per Section 5. Other sections of LD 2003 would apply.

How will LD 2003's requirements be related to municipal comprehensive plans?

Comprehensive plans seeking a finding of consistency under the regulations in Chapter 208 should meet those requirements. Since a comprehensive plan is not a regulatory document, LD 2003 would not create any additional requirements. However, zoning ordinances adopted in a municipality would have to be consistent with both a local comprehensive plan and LD 2003.

Is LD 2003 a model ordinance for use in local zoning?

LD 2003 is not a model ordinance. Communities will be able to seek funding from the Housing Opportunity Program to develop new ordinances.

Can developers “double count” bonuses from various sections?

This issue is outlined in §4364-A Section 2.A. and §4364-B Section 3.B. Developers may only “double count” bonuses from various sections on a lot if this is permitted by the municipality in which the lot is located.

Sections 4, 5, and 6 require written verification of “adequate water and wastewater services.” What about a municipal concern that while a specific housing development may not immediately threaten water quality, the cumulative impact of new development may do so in a way that it did not prior to LD 2003?

As was true prior to the passage of LD 2003, communities are free to take regulatory actions as appropriate for protection of natural resources or existing water systems. These can include changes to zoning districts to limit where housing is permitted; changes to lot size requirements; or the creation of an impact fee system consistent with state law to fund environmental or water quality protection.

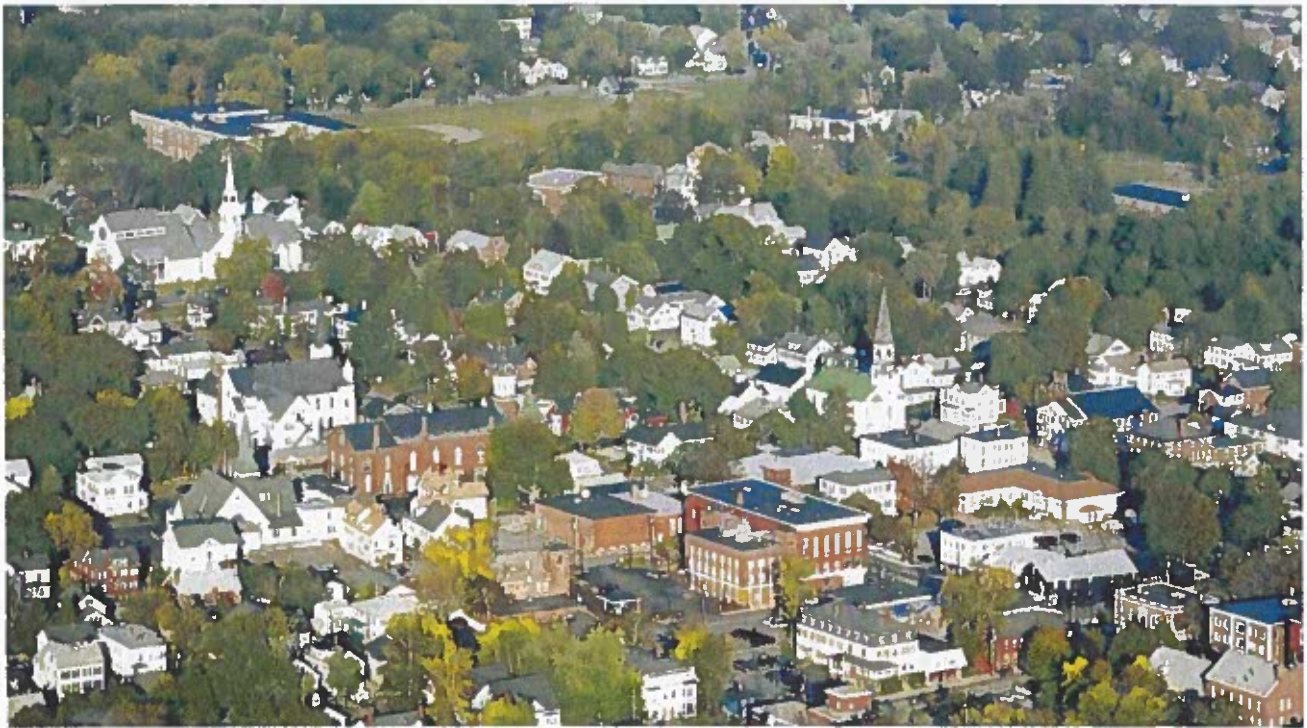
What does section 4349-A, subsection 1, paragraph A or B say?

It directs the State to make growth-related capital investments only in:

- A. A locally designated growth area, as identified in a comprehensive plan adopted pursuant to and consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines of this subchapter or as identified in a growth management program certified under section 4347A;*
- B. In the absence of a consistent comprehensive plan, an area served by a public sewer system that has the capacity for the growth-related project, an area identified in the latest Federal Decennial Census as a census-designated place or a compact area of an urban compact municipality as defined by Title 23, section 754; or [PL 1999, c. 776, §10 (NEW).]*

Growth areas are defined in section 4301, subsection 6-C as:

An area that is designated in a municipality’s or multi-municipal region’s comprehensive plan as suitable for orderly residential, commercial or industrial development, or any combinations of those types of development, and into which most development projected over 10 years is directed.



RULEMAKING PROCESSES

Sections 4, 5 and 6 authorize rulemaking to be led by the Department of Economic & Community Development, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry. These rules are considered “routine technical” – meaning they “establish standards of practice or procedure for the conduct of business with or before an agency” and can be approved administratively.

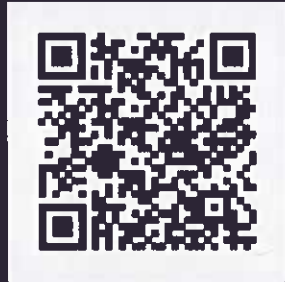
FUNDING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

While not part of LD 2003, the supplemental budget for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 included Section U-1. 5 MRSA §13056-J, providing funding for a new “Housing Opportunity Program.” That program will “encourage and support the development of additional housing units in Maine, including housing units that are affordable for low and moderate income people and housing units targeted to community workforce housing needs” by supporting “regional approaches, municipal model ordinance development, and ... policy that supports increased housing density where feasible to protect working and natural lands.”

The Housing Opportunity Program will consist of grants to service providers to encourage and support the development of additional housing units in Maine, including housing units that are affordable for low-income and moderate-income individuals and housing targeted to community workforce housing needs. These “Service Provider grants” will be awarded to experienced service providers to support municipal ordinance development, the creation of housing development plans, and public process and community engagement support, and may encourage regional coordination. Additional information regarding the Housing Opportunity Grant Program will be available in Spring of 2023.

Finally, the Housing Opportunity Program will be launching a municipal reimbursement program in the Spring of 2023 to assist municipalities with financial costs incurred from implementing ordinance amendments related to LD 2003. Limited funding is available for qualified expenses. For more information on this program reach out to the Housing Opportunity Program staff.

**Still have questions?
Need more information?**



VISIT: MAINE.GOV/DECD/HOUSINGOPPORTUNITYPROGRAM



**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

H.P. 1489 - L.D. 2003

**An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Increase
Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use
Restrictions**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13056, sub-§7, as amended by PL 2003, c. 159, §3, is further amended to read:

7. Contract for services. When contracting for services, to the maximum extent feasible, seek to use the State's private sector resources in conducting studies, providing services and preparing publications; and

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §13056, sub-§8, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 159, §4, is amended to read:

8. Lead agency for business assistance in response to certain events. Be the lead agency for the State to provide information and business assistance to employers and businesses as part of the State's response to an event that causes the Department of Labor to carry out rapid-response activities as described in 29 United States Code, Sections 2801 to 2872 (2002); and

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §13056, sub-§9 is enacted to read:

9. Establish statewide housing production goals. Establish, in coordination with the Maine State Housing Authority, a statewide housing production goal that increases the availability and affordability of all types of housing in all parts of the State. The department shall establish regional housing production goals based on the statewide housing production goal. In establishing these goals, the department shall:

A. Establish measurable standards and benchmarks for success of the goals;

B. Consider information submitted to the department from municipalities about current or prospective housing developments and permits issued for the construction of housing; and

C. Consider any other information as necessary to meet the goals pursuant to this subsection.

5. Water and wastewater. The owner of an affordable housing development shall provide written verification to the municipality that each unit of the housing development is connected to adequate water and wastewater services before the municipality may certify the development for occupancy. Written verification under this subsection must include:

A. If a housing unit is connected to a public, special district or other comparable sewer system, proof of adequate service to support any additional flow created by the unit and proof of payment for the connection to the sewer system;

B. If a housing unit is connected to a septic system, proof of adequate sewage disposal for subsurface wastewater. The septic system must be verified as adequate by a local plumbing inspector under section 4221. Plans for subsurface wastewater disposal must be prepared by a licensed site evaluator in accordance with subsurface wastewater disposal rules adopted under Title 22, section 42;

C. If a housing unit is connected to a public, special district or other centrally managed water system, proof of adequate service to support any additional flow created by the unit, proof of payment for the connection and the volume and supply of water required for the unit; and

D. If a housing unit is connected to a well, proof of access to potable water. Any tests of an existing well or proposed well must indicate that the water supply is potable and acceptable for domestic use.

6. Subdivision requirements. This section may not be construed to exempt a subdivider from the requirements for division of a tract or parcel of land in accordance with subchapter 4.

7. Restrictive covenants. This section may not be construed to interfere with, abrogate or annul the validity or enforceability of any valid and enforceable easement, covenant, deed restriction or other agreement or instrument between private parties that imposes greater restrictions than those provided in this section, as long as the agreement does not abrogate rights under the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Maine.

8. Rules. The Department of Economic and Community Development shall adopt rules to administer and enforce this section. The department shall consult with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in adopting rules pursuant to this subsection. The rules must include criteria for a municipality to use in calculating housing costs. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §4364-A is enacted to read:

§4364-A. Residential areas, generally; up to 4 dwelling units allowed

1. Use allowed. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, except as provided in Title 12, chapter 423-A, for any area in which housing is allowed, a municipality shall allow structures with up to 2 dwelling units per lot if that lot does not contain an existing dwelling unit, except that a municipality shall allow up to 4 dwelling units per lot if that lot does not contain an existing dwelling unit and the lot is located in a designated growth area within a municipality consistent with section 4349-A, subsection 1, paragraph A or B or if the lot is served by a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and a public, special district or other comparable sewer system in a municipality without a comprehensive plan.

C. Establish alternative criteria that are less restrictive than the requirements of subsection 4 for the approval of a housing structure only in circumstances in which the municipality would be able to provide a variance under section 4353, subsection 4, 4-A, 4-B or 4-C.

6. Shoreland zoning. A housing structure must comply with shoreland zoning requirements established by the Department of Environmental Protection under Title 38, chapter 3 and municipal shoreland zoning ordinances.

7. Subdivision requirements. This section may not be construed to exempt a subdivider from the requirements for division of a tract or parcel of land in accordance with subchapter 4.

8. Restrictive covenants. This section may not be construed to interfere with, abrogate or annul the validity or enforceability of any valid and enforceable easement, covenant, deed restriction or other agreement or instrument between private parties that imposes greater restrictions than those provided in this section, as long as the agreement does not abrogate rights under the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Maine.

9. Rules. The Department of Economic and Community Development may adopt rules to administer and enforce this section. The department shall consult with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in adopting rules pursuant to this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

10. Implementation. A municipality is not required to implement the requirements of this section until July 1, 2023.

Sec. 6. 30-A MRSA §4364-B is enacted to read:

§4364-B. Accessory dwelling units

1. Use permitted. Except as provided in Title 12, chapter 423-A, a municipality shall allow an accessory dwelling unit to be located on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit in any area in which housing is permitted.

2. Restrictions. An accessory dwelling unit may be constructed only:

A. Within an existing dwelling unit on the lot;

B. Attached to or sharing a wall with a single-family dwelling unit; or

C. As a new structure on the lot for the primary purpose of creating an accessory dwelling unit.

This subsection does not restrict the construction or permitting of accessory dwelling units constructed and certified for occupancy prior to July 1, 2023.

3. Zoning requirements. With respect to accessory dwelling units, municipal zoning ordinances must comply with the following conditions:

A. At least one accessory dwelling unit must be allowed on any lot where a single-family dwelling unit is the principal structure; and

B. If more than one accessory dwelling unit has been constructed on a lot as a result of the allowance under this section or section 4364-A, the lot is not eligible for any additional increases in density except as allowed by the municipality.

8. Municipal implementation. In adopting an ordinance under this section, a municipality may:

A. Establish an application and permitting process for accessory dwelling units;

B. Impose fines for violations of building, zoning and utility requirements for accessory dwelling units; and

C. Establish alternative criteria that are less restrictive than the requirements of subsections 4, 5, 6 and 7 for the approval of an accessory dwelling unit only in circumstances in which the municipality would be able to provide a variance under section 4353, subsection 4, 4-A, 4-B or 4-C.

9. Rate of growth ordinance. A permit issued by a municipality for an accessory dwelling unit does not count as a permit issued toward a municipality's rate of growth ordinance as described in section 4360.

10. Subdivision requirements. This section may not be construed to exempt a subdivider from the requirements for division of a tract or parcel of land in accordance with subchapter 4.

11. Restrictive covenants. This section may not be construed to interfere with, abrogate or annul the validity or enforceability of any valid or enforceable easement, covenant, deed restriction or other agreement or instrument between private parties that imposes greater restrictions than those provided in this section, as long as the agreement does not abrogate rights under the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Maine.

12. Rules. The Department of Economic and Community Development may adopt rules to administer and enforce this section. The department shall consult with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in adopting rules pursuant to this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

13. Implementation. A municipality is not required to implement the requirements of this section until July 1, 2023.

Sec. 7. 30-A MRSA §4364-C is enacted to read:

§4364-C. Municipal role in statewide housing production goals

This section governs the responsibilities and roles of municipalities in achieving the statewide and regional housing production goals set by the Department of Economic and Community Development in Title 5, section 13056, subsection 9.

1. Fair housing and nondiscrimination. A municipality shall ensure that ordinances and regulations are designed to affirmatively further the purposes of the federal Fair Housing Act, 42 United States Code, Chapter 45, as amended, and the Maine Human Rights Act to achieve the statewide or regional housing production goal.

2. Municipalities may regulate short-term rentals. A municipality may establish and enforce regulations regarding short-term rental units in order to achieve the statewide or regional housing production goal. For the purposes of this subsection, "short-term rental unit" means living quarters offered for rental through a transient rental platform as defined by Title 36, section 1752, subsection 20-C.

- PROPOSED - Rules

19-100 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Chapter 5: HOUSING OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM: MUNICIPAL LAND USE AND ZONING ORDINANCE RULE

Summary: This chapter sets forth the provisions which require municipalities to create or amend local ordinances to allow for (1) additional density for affordable housing developments in certain areas, (2) multiple dwelling units on lots designated for housing, and (3) one accessory dwelling unit located on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit in any area where housing is permitted.

Note: This chapter incorporates by reference certain material. The Appendix lists the material that is incorporated by reference, the date for each reference, and the organization where copies of the material are available.

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS

A. PURPOSE

- ✓ 1. This chapter sets forth the provisions which require municipalities to create or amend local ordinances to allow for (1) additional density for affordable housing developments in certain areas, (2) multiple dwelling units on lots designated for housing, and (3) one accessory dwelling unit located on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit in any area where housing is permitted.
- ✓ 2. Municipalities need not adopt this rule language or the statutory language in 30-A M.R.S. §§ 4364 to 4364-B word for word. The Department encourages municipalities to consider local planning documents and other special local considerations, and to modify language into one that meets the needs of a particular community and the minimum requirements of this legislation. Municipalities may wish to adopt ordinances that are more permissive, provided that such ordinances are equally or more effective in achieving the goal of increasing housing opportunities. If a municipality does not adopt ordinances to comply with 30-A M.R.S. §§ 4364 to 4364-B, this legislation will preempt municipal home rule authority.
3. These rules do not:
 - ✓ a) Abrogate or annul the validity or enforceability of any valid and enforceable easement, covenant, deed restriction or other agreement or instrument between private parties that imposes greater restrictions than those provided in this rule, as long as the agreement does not abrogate rights pursuant to the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Maine,
 - ✓ b) Exempt a subdivider from the requirements in Title 30-A Chapter 187 subchapter 4;

Deleted: P.L. 2021 Ch. 672

Deleted: P.L. 2021 Ch. 672

c) Exempt an affordable housing development, a dwelling unit, or accessory dwelling unit from the shoreland zoning requirements established by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Title 38 Chapter 3 and municipal shoreland zoning ordinances;

Deleted: or

d) Abrogate or annul minimum lot size requirements under Title 12 Chapter 423-A, or

Deleted:

e) Apply to a lot or portion of a lot that is within the watershed of a water source located in Lewiston or Auburn and that is used to provide drinking water by a water utility that has received a waiver from filtration pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.70 to 141.76, as determined by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services.

DEFINITIONS

All terms used but not defined in this chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to those terms in Chapter 187 of Title 30-A of the *Maine Revised Statutes*, as amended. Municipalities need not adopt the terms and definitions outlined below word for word. The Department encourages municipalities to consider local planning documents and other special local considerations, and to modify language into one that meets the needs of a particular community. Municipalities may wish to adopt terms and definitions that are more permissive, provided that such terms and definitions are equally or more effective in achieving the goal of increasing housing opportunities

Accessory dwelling unit "Accessory dwelling unit" means a self-contained dwelling unit located within, attached to or detached from a single-family dwelling unit located on the same parcel of land. An accessory dwelling unit must be a minimum of 190 square feet and municipalities may impose a maximum size.

Affordable housing development "Affordable housing development" means

1. For rental housing, a development in which a household whose income does not exceed 80% of the median income for the area as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8, as amended, can afford 51% or more of the units, in the development without spending more than 30% of the household's monthly income on housing costs; and

Deleted: a majority

Deleted: that the developer designates as affordable

2. For owned housing, a development in which a household whose income does not exceed 120% of the median income for the area as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development under the *United States Housing Act of 1937*, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8, as amended, can afford 51% or more of the units, in the development without spending more than 30% of the household's monthly income on housing costs.

Deleted: a majority

Deleted: that the developer designates as affordable

3. For purposes of this definition, "housing costs" include, but are not limited to:

Deleted: <#>For purposes of this definition, "majority" means more than half of proposed and existing units on the same lot §

- a) For a rental unit, the cost of rent and any utilities (electric, heat, water, sewer, and/or trash) that the household pays separately from the rent; and
- b) For an ownership unit, the cost of mortgage principal and interest, real estate taxes (including assessments), private mortgage insurance, homeowner's insurance, condominium fees, and homeowners' association fees.

Area median income. "Area median income" means the midpoint of a region's income distribution calculated on an annual basis by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Attached. "Attached" means connected by a shared wall to the principal structure or having physically connected finished spaces.

Base density. "Base density" means the maximum number of units allowed on a lot not used for affordable housing based on dimensional requirements in a local land use or zoning ordinance. This does not include local density bonuses, transferable development rights, or other similar means that could increase the density of lots not used for affordable housing.

Centrally managed water system. "Centrally managed water system" means a water system that provides water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances to at least 15 service connections or serves an average of at least 25 people for at least 60 days a year as regulated by 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 231, *Rules Relating to Drinking Water*. This water system may be privately owned.

Comparable sewer system. "Comparable sewer system" means any subsurface wastewater disposal system that discharges over 2,000 gallons of wastewater per day as regulated by 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 241, *Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules*.

Comprehensive plan. "Comprehensive plan" means a document or interrelated documents consistent with 30-A M.R.S. § 4326(1)-(4), including the strategies for an implementation program which are consistent with the goals and guidelines established pursuant to Title 30-A Chapter 187 Subchapter II.

Conditional use. "Conditional use" means a use permitted on a lot in a zoning district by a municipal legislative body, subject to certain conditions not generally applicable to other lots located in that zoning district.

Density requirements. "Density requirements" mean the maximum number of dwelling units allowed on a lot, subject to dimensional requirements.

Designated growth area. "Designated growth area" means an area that is designated in a municipality's or multi-municipal region's comprehensive plan as suitable for orderly residential, commercial, or industrial development, or any combination of those types of development, and into which most development projected over ten (10) years is directed. Designated growth areas may also be referred to as priority development zones or other

Deleted: Certificate of occupancy. "Certificate of occupancy" means the municipal approval for occupancy granted pursuant to 25 M.R.S. §2357-A or the *Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code* adopted pursuant to Title 10 Chapter 1103. Certificate of occupancy may also be referred to as issuance of certificate of occupancy or other terms with a similar intent ¶

terms with a similar intent. If a municipality does not have a comprehensive plan, "designated growth area" means an area served by a public sewer system that has the capacity for the growth-related project, an area identified in the latest Federal Decennial Census as a census-designated place or a compact area of an urban compact municipality as defined by 23 M.R.S. §754.

Dimensional requirements. "Dimensional requirements" mean requirements which govern the size and placement of structures including, but limited not to, the following requirements: building height, lot area, minimum frontage and lot depth.

Duplex. "Duplex" means a structure containing two (2) dwelling units.

Dwelling unit. "Dwelling unit" means any part of a structure which, through sale or lease, is intended for human habitation, including single-family and multifamily housing, condominiums, time-share units, and apartments.

Existing dwelling unit. "Existing dwelling unit" means a residential unit in existence on a lot at the time of submission of a permit application to build additional units on that lot. If a municipality does not have a permitting process, the dwelling unit on a lot must be in existence at the time construction begins for additional units on a lot.

Implementation date. "Implementation date" means:

1. January 1, 2024, for municipalities for which ordinances may be enacted by the municipal officers without further action or approval by the voters of the municipality; and
2. July 1, 2024, for all other municipalities.
3. For purposes of this definition, "further action or approval by the voters of the municipality" means municipalities that have a town meeting form of government.

Deleted: Housing "Housing" means any part of a structure which, through sale or lease, is intended for human habitation, including single-family and multifamily housing, condominiums, time-share units, and apartments. For purposes of this rule, this does not include dormitories, boarding houses or other similar types of housing units; (2), and (3) This also does not include transient housing or short-term rentals, unless these uses are otherwise allowed in local ordinance ¶

Deleted: ~~¶~~

Land use ordinance. "Land use ordinance" means an ordinance or regulation of general application adopted by the municipal legislative body which controls, directs, or delineates allowable uses of land and the standards for those uses.

Lot. "Lot" means a single parcel of developed or undeveloped land.

Multifamily dwelling. "Multifamily dwelling" means a structure containing three (3) or more dwelling units.

Municipality. "Municipality" means a city or a town, excluding all unorganized and deorganized townships, plantations, and towns that have delegated administration of land use controls to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission pursuant to 12 M.R.S. §682(1).

Deleted: 1
¶

Potable. "Potable" means safe for drinking as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Drinking Water Standards and Health Advisories Table and Maine's interim drinking water standards for six different perfluoroalkyl and

polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), Resolve 2021 Chapter 82, *Resolve, To Protect Consumers of Public Drinking Water by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Level for Certain Substances and Contaminants.*

Principal structure. "Principal structure" means a structure in which the main or primary use of the structure is conducted. For purposes of this rule, principal structure does not include commercial buildings.

Quadplex. "Quadplex" means a structure containing 4 (four) dwelling units.

Residential use. "Residential use" means a use permitted in an area by a municipal legislative body to be used for human habitation. Residential uses may include single-family, duplex, triplex, quadplex, and other multifamily housing; condominiums; time-share units; and apartments. For purposes of this rule, the following uses are not included under this definition, unless otherwise allowed in local ordinance: (1) Dormitories; (2) Congregate living facilities; (3) Campgrounds, campsites, hotels, motels, beds and breakfasts, or other types of lodging accommodations; and (4) Transient housing or short-term rentals.

Restrictive covenant. "Restrictive covenant" means a provision in a deed, or other covenant conveying real property, restricting the use of the land.

Setback requirements. "Setback requirements" mean the minimum horizontal distance from a lot line, shoreline, or road to the nearest part of a structure, or other regulated object or area as defined in local ordinance.

Single-family dwelling unit. "Single-family dwelling unit" means a structure containing one (1) dwelling unit.

Structure. "Structure" means anything temporarily or permanently located, built, constructed or erected for the support, shelter or enclosure of persons as defined in 38 M.R.S. §436-A(12).

Triplex. "Triplex" means a structure containing three (3) dwelling units.

Zoning ordinance. "Zoning ordinance" means a type of land use ordinance that divides a municipality into districts and that prescribes and reasonably applies different regulations in each district.

SECTION 2. AFFORDABLE HOUSING DENSITY

A. GENERAL

This Section requires municipalities to allow an automatic density bonus for certain affordable housing developments approved on or after the implementation date, as outlined below. This section only applies to lots in zoning districts that have adopted density requirements.

Deleted: July 1, 2023

B. ELIGIBILITY FOR DENSITY BONUS

1. For purposes of this section, a municipality shall verify that the development:
 - a) Is an affordable housing development as defined in this chapter, which includes the requirement that a majority of the total units on the lot are affordable;
 - b) Is in a designated growth area pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §4349-A(1)(A) or (B) or served by a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and a public, special district or other comparable sewer system;
 - c) Is located in an area in which multifamily dwellings are allowed per municipal ordinance;
 - d) Complies with minimum lot size requirements in accordance with Title 12 Chapter 423-A; and
 - e) Owner provides written verification that each unit of the housing development is proposed to be connected to adequate water and wastewater services prior to certification of the development for occupancy or similar type of approval process. Written verification must include the following:
 - i. If a housing unit is connected to a public, special district or other comparable sewer system, proof of adequate service to support any additional flow created by the unit and proof of payment for the connection to the sewer system;
 - ii. If a housing unit is connected to a septic system, proof of adequate sewage disposal for subsurface wastewater. The septic system must be verified as adequate by a local plumbing inspector pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §4221. Plans for a subsurface wastewater disposal must be prepared by a licensed site evaluator in accordance with 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 241, *Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules*.
 - iii. If a housing unit is connected to a public, special district or other centrally managed water system, proof of adequate service to support any additional flow created by the unit, proof of payment for the connection and the volume and supply of water required for the unit; and
 - iv. If a housing unit is connected to a well, proof of access to potable water, including the standards outlined in 01-672 C.M.R. Ch. 10 section 10.25(J), *Land Use Districts and Standards*. Any test of an existing well or proposed well must indicate that the water supply is potable and acceptable for domestic use.
2. Long-Term Affordability

Prior to granting ~~final approval of~~ an affordable housing development, ~~including but not limited to issuing an occupancy permit~~, a municipality must require that the owner of the affordable housing development (1) execute a restrictive covenant that is enforceable by a party acceptable to the municipality, and (2) record the restrictive covenant in the appropriate registry of deeds to ensure that for at least thirty (30) years after completion of construction:

Deleted: a certificate of occupancy or other final approval of

- a) For rental housing, occupancy of all the units designated affordable in the development will remain limited to households at or below 80% of the local area median income at the time of initial occupancy, and
- b) For owned housing, occupancy of all the units designated affordable in the development will remain limited to households at or below 120% of the local area median income at the time of initial occupancy.

C. DENSITY BONUS

If the requirements in Section 2(B)(1) and (2) are met, a municipality must:

- 1. Allow an affordable housing development to have a dwelling unit density of at least 2.5 times the base density that is otherwise allowed in that location, and
- 2. Require no more than two (2) off-street parking motor vehicle spaces for every three (3) dwelling units of an affordable housing development.

If fractional results occur when calculating the density bonus in this subsection, the number of units is rounded down to the nearest whole number. Local regulation that chooses to round up shall be considered consistent with and not more restrictive than this law. The number of motor vehicle parking spaces may be rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

SECTION 3. DWELLING UNIT ALLOWANCE

A. GENERAL

This section requires municipalities to allow multiple dwelling units on lots where ~~residential uses are allowed, including as a conditional use, beginning on the implementation date~~, subject to the requirements below. The requirements listed in Section 3 apply to municipalities with and without zoning. Private, state or local standards such as homeowners' association regulation, deed restrictions, lot size, set back, density, septic requirements, minimum lot size, additional parking requirements, growth ordinance permits, shoreland zoning and subdivision law, may also apply to lots.

Deleted: housing is

Deleted: allowed

Deleted: July 1, 2023

B. REQUIREMENTS

I. Dwelling Unit Allowance

- a) If a lot does not contain an existing dwelling unit, municipalities must allow up to four (4) dwelling units per lot if the lot is located in an area

in which housing is allowed, meets the requirements in 12 M.R.S. Ch. 423-A, and is:

- i. Located within a designated growth area consistent with 30-A M.R.S. §4349 A(1)(A)-(B), or
 - ii. Served by both a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and a public, special district or other comparable sewer system in a municipality without a comprehensive plan.
- b) If a lot does not contain an existing dwelling unit and does not meet i. or ii. above, a municipality must allow up to two (2) dwelling units per lot located in an area in which housing is allowed, provided that the requirements in 12 M.R.S. Ch. 423-A are met. The two (2) dwelling units may be (1) within one structure, or (2) separate structures.
- c) If a lot contains one existing dwelling unit, a municipality must allow the addition of up to two (2) additional dwelling units:
- i. One within the existing structure or attached to the existing structure;
 - ii. One detached from the existing structure; or
 - iii. One of each.
- d) If a lot contains two existing dwelling units, no additional dwelling units may be built on the lot unless allowed under local municipal ordinance.
- e) A municipality may allow more units than the minimum number of units required to be allowed on all lots that allow housing.

2. Zoning

With respect to dwelling units allowed under this Section, municipalities with and without zoning ordinances must comply with the following:

- a) If more than one dwelling unit has been constructed on a lot as a result of the allowance pursuant to this Section, the lot is not eligible for any additional units or increases in density except as allowed by the municipality. Municipalities have the discretion to determine if a dwelling unit or accessory dwelling unit has been constructed on a lot for purposes of this provision.
- b) Municipalities may establish a prohibition or an allowance for lots where a dwelling unit in existence after the implementation date, is torn down and an empty lot results.

Deleted: July 1, 2023

3. Dimensional and Setback Requirements

- a) A municipal ordinance may not establish dimensional requirements, including but not limited to setback requirements, for dwelling units allowed pursuant to this Section that are more restrictive than the dimensional requirements including but not limited to setback requirements, for single-family housing units.

- 4. A municipality may establish requirements for a lot area per dwelling unit as long as the additional lot area required for each additional dwelling unit is proportional to the lot area per dwelling unit of the first unit.

- 5. Water and Wastewater
 - a) The municipality must require an owner of a proposed housing structure to provide written verification that each proposed structure is to be connected to adequate water and wastewater services prior to certification of the development for occupancy or similar type of approval process. Written verification must include the following:
 - i. If a housing structure is connected to a public, special district or other comparable sewer system, proof of adequate service to support any additional flow created by the unit and proof of payment for the connection to the sewer system;
 - ii. If a housing structure is connected to a septic system, proof of adequate sewage disposal for subsurface wastewater. The septic system must be verified as adequate by a local plumbing inspector pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §4221. Plans for a subsurface wastewater disposal must be prepared by a licensed site evaluator in accordance with 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 241, *Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules*.
 - iii. If a housing structure is connected to a public, special district or other centrally managed water system, proof of adequate service to support any additional flow created by the unit, proof of payment for the connection and the volume and supply of water required for the unit; and
 - iv. If a housing structure is connected to a well, proof of access to potable water, including the standards outlined in 01-672 C.M.R. Ch. 10 section 10 25(J), *Land Use Districts and Standards*. Any test of an existing well or proposed well must indicate that the water supply is potable and acceptable for domestic use.

Deleted: or

Deleted: or

Deleted: dwelling units

C. MUNICIPAL IMPLEMENTATION

In adopting an ordinance, a municipality may:

- 1. Establish an application and permitting process for dwelling units;
- 2. Impose fines for violations of building, site plan, zoning, and utility requirements for dwelling units; and

- 3. Establish alternative criteria that are less restrictive than the requirements of Section 3(B)(4) for the approval of a dwelling units only in circumstances in which the municipality would be able to provide a variance pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §4353(4)(A), (B), or (C).

SECTION 4. ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

A. GENERAL

- 1. A municipality must allow, effective on the implementation date, one accessory dwelling unit to be located on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit in any area in which residential uses are permitted, including as a conditional use, subject to the requirements outlined below. The requirements listed in Section 4 apply to municipalities with and without zoning. Private, state or local standards such as homeowners' association regulation, deed restrictions, set back, density, septic requirements, shoreland zoning and subdivision law may also apply to lots.
- 2. A municipal ordinance that allows more than one accessory dwelling unit or that allows accessory dwelling units to be established in relation to duplex, triplex, quadplex, and other multi-unit buildings shall be considered consistent with the goals of 30-A M.R.S. §§ 4364 to 4364-B.
- 3. A municipality may not categorically prohibit accessory dwelling units in the shoreland zone that would otherwise meet the shoreland zoning requirements established by the Department of Environmental Protection, Title 28, Chapter 3, and municipal shoreland zoning ordinances.

Deleted: July 1, 2023

Deleted: housing is allowed

Deleted: P.L. 2021 Ch. 672

B. REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Accessory Dwelling Unit Allowance
 - An accessory dwelling unit may be constructed only:
 - a) Within an existing dwelling unit on the lot;
 - b) Attached to a single-family dwelling unit; or
 - c) As a new structure on the lot for the primary purpose of creating an accessory dwelling unit.

A municipality may allow an accessory dwelling unit to be constructed or established within an existing accessory structure, except the setback requirements of Section 4(B)(3)(b)(i) shall apply.

- 2. Zoning
 - With respect to accessory dwelling units, municipalities with zoning ordinances and municipalities without zoning must comply with the following conditions:

- (a) At least one accessory dwelling unit must be allowed on any lot where a single-family dwelling unit is the principal structure;
- (b) If more than one accessory dwelling unit has been constructed on a lot as a result of the allowance pursuant to this Section, the lot is not eligible for any additional units or increases in density, except as allowed by the municipality. Municipalities have the discretion to determine if a dwelling unit or accessory dwelling unit has been constructed on a lot for purposes of this provision, and
- (c) ~~An accessory dwelling unit is allowed on a lot that does not conform to the municipal zoning ordinance if the accessory dwelling unit does not further increase the nonconformity, meaning the accessory dwelling unit does not cause further deviation from the dimensional standard(s) creating the nonconformity, excluding lot area.~~

Deleted: and

Deleted: 1

3. Other

With respect to accessory dwelling units, municipalities must comply with the following conditions:

- a) A municipality must exempt an accessory dwelling unit from any density requirements or lot area requirements related to the area in which the accessory dwelling unit is constructed;
- b) For an accessory dwelling unit located within the same structure as a single-family dwelling unit or attached to a single-family dwelling unit, the dimensional requirements, ~~excluding lot area requirements~~, and setback requirements must be the same as the dimensional requirements and setback requirements of the single-family dwelling unit;
 - i. For an accessory dwelling unit permitted in an existing accessory building or secondary building or garage as of ~~the implementation date~~, the required setback requirements in local ordinance of the existing accessory or secondary building apply.
- c) A municipality may establish more permissive dimensional requirements and setback requirements for an accessory dwelling unit.
- d) An accessory dwelling unit may not be subject to any additional motor vehicle parking requirements beyond the parking requirements of the single-family dwelling unit on the lot where the accessory dwelling unit is located.
- e) ~~An accessory dwelling unit that was not built with municipal approval must be allowed if the accessory dwelling unit otherwise meets the requirements for accessory dwelling units of the municipality and under this Section.~~

Deleted: July 1, 2023

4. Size

- a) An accessory dwelling unit must be at least 190 square feet in size, unless the Technical Building Code and Standards Board, pursuant to 10 M.R.S. §9722, adopts a different minimum standard; if so, that standard applies.
- b) Municipalities may set a maximum size for accessory dwelling units in local ordinances, as long as accessory dwelling units are not less than 190 square feet.

5. Water and Wastewater

A municipality must require an owner of an accessory dwelling unit to provide written verification that the proposed accessory dwelling unit is to be connected to adequate water and wastewater services prior to certification of the accessory dwelling unit for occupancy or similar type of approval process. Written verification must include the following:

- a) If an accessory dwelling unit is connected to a public, special district or other comparable sewer system, proof of adequate service to support any additional flow created by the unit and proof of payment for the connection to the sewer system;
- b) If an accessory dwelling unit is connected to a septic system, proof of adequate sewage disposal for subsurface wastewater. The septic system must be verified as adequate by a local plumbing inspector pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §4221. Plans for a subsurface wastewater disposal must be prepared by a licensed site evaluator in accordance with 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 241, *Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules*;
- c) If an accessory dwelling unit is connected to a public, special district or other centrally managed water system, proof of adequate service to support any additional flow created by the unit, proof of payment for the connection and the volume and supply of water required for the unit; and
- d) If an accessory dwelling unit is connected to a well, proof of access to potable water, including the standards outlined in 01-672 C.M.R. Ch. 10 section 10.25(J), *Land Use Districts and Standards*. Any test of an existing well or proposed well must indicate that the water supply is potable and acceptable for domestic use.

C. MUNICIPAL IMPLEMENTATION

In adopting an ordinance under this Section, a municipality may:

1. Establish an application and permitting process for accessory dwelling units ~~that does not require planning board approval.~~
2. Impose fines for violations of building, zoning and utility requirements for accessory dwelling units; and

Deleted:

3. Establish alternative criteria that are less restrictive than the above criteria in Section 4 for the approval of an accessory dwelling unit only in circumstances in which the municipality would be able to provide a variance pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §4353(4)(A), (B), or (C).

D. RATE OF GROWTH ORDINANCE

A permit issued by a municipality for an accessory dwelling unit does not count as a permit issued toward a municipality's rate of growth ordinance pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §4360.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

PL 2021 Ch. 672, [PL 2023 Ch. 192](#), and [PL 2023, ch. 264](#), codified at 30-A M.R.S. §§ 4364, 4364-A, 4364-B.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

April 18, 2023 – filing 2023-056

[AMENDED](#)

Deleted: 1

APPENDIX

List of Reference Material

Reference Material	Location to Obtain Document
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Drinking Water Standards and Health Advisories Table, March 2018.	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Water Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791
10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 231, Rules Relating to Drinking Water, May 9, 2016	Maine Department of Health & Human Services Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention 11 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333 207-287-8016
Resolve 2021, Ch. 82, Resolve, To Protect Consumers of Public Drinking Water by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Substances and Contaminants	Maine State Legislature Legislative Information Office- Document Room 100 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333 207-287-1408 webmaster_house@legislature.maine.gov
01-672 C.M.R. Ch. 10, Land Use Districts and Standards, December 30, 2022	Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning Land Use Planning Commission 22 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333 207-287-2631
10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 241, Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules, August 3, 2015	Maine Department of Health & Human Services Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention 11 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333 207-287-8016

- IN EFFECT - Rules

19-100 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Chapter 5: HOUSING OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM: MUNICIPAL LAND USE AND ZONING ORDINANCE RULE

Summary: This chapter sets forth the provisions which require municipalities to create or amend local ordinances to allow for (1) additional density for affordable housing developments in certain areas; (2) multiple dwelling units on lots designated for housing; and (3) one accessory dwelling unit located on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit in any area where housing is permitted.

Note: This chapter incorporates by reference certain material. The Appendix lists the material that is incorporated by reference, the date for each reference, and the organization where copies of the material are available.

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS

A. PURPOSE

1. This chapter sets forth the provisions which require municipalities to create or amend local ordinances to allow for (1) additional density for affordable housing developments in certain areas; (2) multiple dwelling units on lots designated for housing; and (3) one accessory dwelling unit located on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit in any area where housing is permitted.
2. Municipalities need not adopt this rule language or the statutory language in 30-A M.R.S. §§ 4364 to 4364-B word for word. The Department encourages municipalities to consider local planning documents and other special local considerations, and to modify language into one that meets the needs of a particular community and the minimum requirements of this legislation. Municipalities may wish to adopt ordinances that are more permissive, provided that such ordinances are equally or more effective in achieving the goal of increasing housing opportunities. If a municipality does not adopt ordinances to comply with 30-A M.R.S. §§ 4364 to 4364-B, this legislation will preempt municipal home rule authority.
3. These rules do not:
 - a) Abrogate or annul the validity or enforceability of any valid and enforceable easement, covenant, deed restriction or other agreement or instrument between private parties that imposes greater restrictions than those provided in this rule, as long as the agreement does not abrogate rights pursuant to the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Maine;
 - b) Exempt a subdivider from the requirements in Title 30-A Chapter 187 subchapter 4;

- c) Exempt an affordable housing development, a dwelling unit, or accessory dwelling unit from the shoreland zoning requirements established by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Title 38 Chapter 3 and municipal shoreland zoning ordinances;
- d) Abrogate or annul minimum lot size requirements under Title 12 Chapter 423-A; or
- e) Apply to a lot or portion of a lot that is within the watershed of a water source located in Lewiston or Auburn and that is used to provide drinking water by a water utility that has received a waiver from filtration pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 141.70 to 141.76, as determined by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services.

B. DEFINITIONS

All terms used but not defined in this chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to those terms in Chapter 187 of Title 30-A of the *Maine Revised Statutes*, as amended. Municipalities need not adopt the terms and definitions outlined below word for word. The Department encourages municipalities to consider local planning documents and other special local considerations, and to modify language into one that meets the needs of a particular community. Municipalities may wish to adopt terms and definitions that are more permissive, provided that such terms and definitions are equally or more effective in achieving the goal of increasing housing opportunities.

Accessory dwelling unit. "Accessory dwelling unit" means a self-contained dwelling unit located within, attached to or detached from a single-family dwelling unit located on the same parcel of land. An accessory dwelling unit must be a minimum of 190 square feet and municipalities may impose a maximum size.

Affordable housing development. "Affordable housing development" means

1. For rental housing, a development in which a household whose income does not exceed 80% of the median income for the area as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8, as amended, can afford 51% or more of the units in the development without spending more than 30% of the household's monthly income on housing costs; and
2. For owned housing, a development in which a household whose income does not exceed 120% of the median income for the area as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development under the *United States Housing Act of 1937*, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8, as amended, can afford 51% or more of the units in the development without spending more than 30% of the household's monthly income on housing costs.
3. For purposes of this definition, "housing costs" include, but are not limited to:

- a) For a rental unit, the cost of rent and any utilities (electric, heat, water, sewer, and/or trash) that the household pays separately from the rent; and
- b) For an ownership unit, the cost of mortgage principal and interest, real estate taxes (including assessments), private mortgage insurance, homeowner's insurance, condominium fees, and homeowners' association fees.

Area median income. "Area median income" means the midpoint of a region's income distribution calculated on an annual basis by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Attached. "Attached" means connected by a shared wall to the principal structure or having physically connected finished spaces.

Base density. "Base density" means the maximum number of units allowed on a lot not used for affordable housing based on dimensional requirements in a local land use or zoning ordinance. This does not include local density bonuses, transferable development rights, or other similar means that could increase the density of lots not used for affordable housing.

Centrally managed water system. "Centrally managed water system" means a water system that provides water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances to at least 15 service connections or serves an average of at least 25 people for at least 60 days a year as regulated by 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 231, *Rules Relating to Drinking Water*. This water system may be privately owned.

Comparable sewer system. "Comparable sewer system" means any subsurface wastewater disposal system that discharges over 2,000 gallons of wastewater per day as regulated by 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 241, *Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules*.

Comprehensive plan. "Comprehensive plan" means a document or interrelated documents consistent with 30-A M.R.S. § 4326(1)-(4), including the strategies for an implementation program which are consistent with the goals and guidelines established pursuant to Title 30-A Chapter 187 Subchapter II.

Conditional use. "Conditional use" means a use permitted on a lot in a zoning district by a municipal legislative body, subject to certain conditions not generally applicable to other lots located in that zoning district.

Density requirements. "Density requirements" mean the maximum number of dwelling units allowed on a lot, subject to dimensional requirements.

Designated growth area. "Designated growth area" means an area that is designated in a municipality's or multi-municipal region's comprehensive plan as suitable for orderly residential, commercial, or industrial development, or any combination of those types of development, and into which most development projected over ten (10) years is directed. Designated growth areas may also be referred to as priority development zones or other

terms with a similar intent. If a municipality does not have a comprehensive plan, “designated growth area” means an area served by a public sewer system that has the capacity for the growth-related project, an area identified in the latest Federal Decennial Census as a census-designated place or a compact area of an urban compact municipality as defined by 23 M.R.S. §754.

Dimensional requirements. “Dimensional requirements” mean requirements which govern the size and placement of structures including, but limited not to, the following requirements: building height, lot area, minimum frontage and lot depth.

Duplex. “Duplex” means a structure containing two (2) dwelling units.

Dwelling unit. “Dwelling unit” means any part of a structure which, through sale or lease, is intended for human habitation, including single-family and multifamily housing, condominiums, time-share units, and apartments.

Existing dwelling unit. “Existing dwelling unit” means a residential unit in existence on a lot at the time of submission of a permit application to build additional units on that lot. If a municipality does not have a permitting process, the dwelling unit on a lot must be in existence at the time construction begins for additional units on a lot.

Implementation date. “Implementation date” means:

1. January 1, 2024, for municipalities for which ordinances may be enacted by the municipal officers without further action or approval by the voters of the municipality; and
2. July 1, 2024, for all other municipalities.
3. For purposes of this definition, “further action or approval by the voters of the municipality” means municipalities that have a town meeting form of government.

Land use ordinance. “Land use ordinance” means an ordinance or regulation of general application adopted by the municipal legislative body which controls, directs, or delineates allowable uses of land and the standards for those uses.

Lot. “Lot” means a single parcel of developed or undeveloped land.

Multifamily dwelling. “Multifamily dwelling” means a structure containing three (3) or more dwelling units.

Municipality. “Municipality” means a city or a town, excluding all unorganized and deorganized townships, plantations, and towns that have delegated administration of land use controls to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission pursuant to 12 M.R.S. §682(1).

Potable. “Potable” means safe for drinking as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Drinking Water Standards and Health Advisories Table and Maine’s interim drinking water standards for six different perfluoroalkyl and

polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), Resolve 2021 Chapter 82, *Resolve, To Protect Consumers of Public Drinking Water by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Level for Certain Substances and Contaminants*.

Principal structure. "Principal structure" means a structure in which the main or primary use of the structure is conducted. For purposes of this rule, principal structure does not include commercial buildings.

Quadplex. "Quadplex" means a structure containing 4 (four) dwelling units.

Residential use. "Residential use" means a use permitted in an area by a municipal legislative body to be used for human habitation. Residential uses may include single-family, duplex, triplex, quadplex, and other multifamily housing; condominiums; time-share units; and apartments. For purposes of this rule, the following uses are not included under this definition, unless otherwise allowed in local ordinance: (1) Dormitories; (2) Congregate living facilities; (3) Campgrounds, campsites, hotels, motels, beds and breakfasts, or other types of lodging accommodations; and (4) Transient housing or short-term rentals.

Restrictive covenant. "Restrictive covenant" means a provision in a deed, or other covenant conveying real property, restricting the use of the land.

Setback requirements. "Setback requirements" mean the minimum horizontal distance from a lot line, shoreline, or road to the nearest part of a structure, or other regulated object or area as defined in local ordinance.

Single-family dwelling unit. "Single-family dwelling unit" means a structure containing one (1) dwelling unit.

Structure. "Structure" means anything temporarily or permanently located, built, constructed or erected for the support, shelter or enclosure of persons as defined in 38 M.R.S. §436-A(12).

Triplex. "Triplex" means a structure containing three (3) dwelling units.

Zoning ordinance. "Zoning ordinance" means a type of land use ordinance that divides a municipality into districts and that prescribes and reasonably applies different regulations in each district.

SECTION 2. AFFORDABLE HOUSING DENSITY

A. GENERAL

This Section requires municipalities to allow an automatic density bonus for certain affordable housing developments approved on or after the implementation date, as outlined below. This section only applies to lots in zoning districts that have adopted density requirements.

B. ELIGIBILITY FOR DENSITY BONUS

1. For purposes of this section, a municipality shall verify that the development:
 - a) Is an affordable housing development as defined in this chapter, which includes the requirement that a majority of the total units on the lot are affordable;
 - b) Is in a designated growth area pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §4349-A(1)(A) or (B) or served by a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and a public, special district or other comparable sewer system;
 - c) Is located in an area in which multifamily dwellings are allowed per municipal ordinance;
 - d) Complies with minimum lot size requirements in accordance with Title 12 Chapter 423-A; and
 - e) Owner provides written verification that each unit of the housing development is proposed to be connected to adequate water and wastewater services prior to certification of the development for occupancy or similar type of approval process. Written verification must include the following:
 - i. If a housing unit is connected to a public, special district or other comparable sewer system, proof of adequate service to support any additional flow created by the unit and proof of payment for the connection to the sewer system;
 - ii. If a housing unit is connected to a septic system, proof of adequate sewage disposal for subsurface wastewater. The septic system must be verified as adequate by a local plumbing inspector pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §4221. Plans for a subsurface wastewater disposal must be prepared by a licensed site evaluator in accordance with 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 241, *Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules*.
 - iii. If a housing unit is connected to a public, special district or other centrally managed water system, proof of adequate service to support any additional flow created by the unit, proof of payment for the connection and the volume and supply of water required for the unit; and
 - iv. If a housing unit is connected to a well, proof of access to potable water, including the standards outlined in 01-672 C.M.R. Ch. 10 section 10.25(J), *Land Use Districts and Standards*. Any test of an existing well or proposed well must indicate that the water supply is potable and acceptable for domestic use.
2. Long-Term Affordability

Prior to granting final approval of an affordable housing development, including but not limited to issuing an occupancy permit, a municipality must require that the owner of the affordable housing development (1) execute a restrictive covenant that is enforceable by a party acceptable to the municipality; and (2) record the restrictive covenant in the appropriate registry of deeds to ensure that for at least thirty (30) years after completion of construction:

- a) For rental housing, occupancy of all the units designated affordable in the development will remain limited to households at or below 80% of the local area median income at the time of initial occupancy; and
- b) For owned housing, occupancy of all the units designated affordable in the development will remain limited to households at or below 120% of the local area median income at the time of initial occupancy.

C. DENSITY BONUS

If the requirements in Section 2(B)(1) and (2) are met, a municipality must:

- 1. Allow an affordable housing development to have a dwelling unit density of at least 2.5 times the base density that is otherwise allowed in that location; and
- 2. Require no more than two (2) off-street parking motor vehicle spaces for every three (3) dwelling units of an affordable housing development.

If fractional results occur when calculating the density bonus in this subsection, the number of units is rounded down to the nearest whole number. Local regulation that chooses to round up shall be considered consistent with and not more restrictive than this law. The number of motor vehicle parking spaces may be rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

SECTION 3. DWELLING UNIT ALLOWANCE

A. GENERAL

This section requires municipalities to allow multiple dwelling units on lots where residential uses are allowed, including as a conditional use, beginning on the implementation date, subject to the requirements below. The requirements listed in Section 3 apply to municipalities with and without zoning. Private, state or local standards such as homeowners' association regulation, deed restrictions, lot size, set back, density, septic requirements, minimum lot size, additional parking requirements, growth ordinance permits, shoreland zoning and subdivision law, may also apply to lots.

B. REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Dwelling Unit Allowance
 - a) If a lot does not contain an existing dwelling unit, municipalities must allow up to four (4) dwelling units per lot if the lot is located in an area

in which housing is allowed, meets the requirements in 12 M.R.S. Ch. 423-A, and is:

- i. Located within a designated growth area consistent with 30-A M.R.S. §4349 A(1)(A)-(B); or
 - ii. Served by both a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and a public, special district or other comparable sewer system in a municipality without a comprehensive plan.
- b) If a lot does not contain an existing dwelling unit and does not meet i. or ii. above, a municipality must allow up to two (2) dwelling units per lot located in an area in which housing is allowed, provided that the requirements in 12 M.R.S. Ch. 423-A are met. The two (2) dwelling units may be (1) within one structure; or (2) separate structures.
- c) If a lot contains one existing dwelling unit, a municipality must allow the addition of up to two (2) additional dwelling units:
- i. One within the existing structure or attached to the existing structure;
 - ii. One detached from the existing structure; or
 - iii. One of each.
- d) If a lot contains two existing dwelling units, no additional dwelling units may be built on the lot unless allowed under local municipal ordinance.
- e) A municipality may allow more units than the minimum number of units required to be allowed on all lots that allow housing.

2. Zoning

With respect to dwelling units allowed under this Section, municipalities with and without zoning ordinances must comply with the following:

- a) If more than one dwelling unit has been constructed on a lot as a result of the allowance pursuant to this Section, the lot is not eligible for any additional units or increases in density except as allowed by the municipality. Municipalities have the discretion to determine if a dwelling unit or accessory dwelling unit has been constructed on a lot for purposes of this provision.
- b) Municipalities may establish a prohibition or an allowance for lots where a dwelling unit in existence after the implementation date, is torn down and an empty lot results.

3. Dimensional and Setback Requirements

- a) A municipal ordinance may not establish dimensional requirements, including but not limited to setback requirements, for dwelling units allowed pursuant to this Section that are more restrictive than the dimensional requirements, including but not limited to setback requirements, for single-family housing units.
4. A municipality may establish requirements for a lot area per dwelling unit as long as the additional lot area required for each additional dwelling unit is proportional to the lot area per dwelling unit of the first unit.
 5. Water and Wastewater
 - a) The municipality must require an owner of a proposed housing structure to provide written verification that each proposed structure is to be connected to adequate water and wastewater services prior to certification of the development for occupancy or similar type of approval process. Written verification must include the following:
 - i. If a housing structure is connected to a public, special district or other comparable sewer system, proof of adequate service to support any additional flow created by the unit and proof of payment for the connection to the sewer system;
 - ii. If a housing structure is connected to a septic system, proof of adequate sewage disposal for subsurface wastewater. The septic system must be verified as adequate by a local plumbing inspector pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §4221. Plans for a subsurface wastewater disposal must be prepared by a licensed site evaluator in accordance with 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 241, *Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules*.
 - iii. If a housing structure is connected to a public, special district or other centrally managed water system, proof of adequate service to support any additional flow created by the unit, proof of payment for the connection and the volume and supply of water required for the unit; and
 - iv. If a housing structure is connected to a well, proof of access to potable water, including the standards outlined in 01-672 C.M.R. Ch. 10 section 10.25(J), *Land Use Districts and Standards*. Any test of an existing well or proposed well must indicate that the water supply is potable and acceptable for domestic use.

C. MUNICIPAL IMPLEMENTATION

In adopting an ordinance, a municipality may:

1. Establish an application and permitting process for dwelling units;
2. Impose fines for violations of building, site plan, zoning, and utility requirements for dwelling units; and

3. Establish alternative criteria that are less restrictive than the requirements of Section 3(B)(4) for the approval of a dwelling units only in circumstances in which the municipality would be able to provide a variance pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §4353(4)(A), (B), or (C).

SECTION 4. ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

A. GENERAL

1. A municipality must allow, effective on the implementation date, one accessory dwelling unit to be located on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit in any area in which residential uses are permitted, including as a conditional use, subject to the requirements outlined below. The requirements listed in Section 4 apply to municipalities with and without zoning. Private, state or local standards such as homeowners' association regulation, deed restrictions, set back, density, septic requirements, shoreland zoning and subdivision law may also apply to lots.
2. A municipal ordinance that allows more than one accessory dwelling unit or that allows accessory dwelling units to be established in relation to duplex, triplex, quadplex, and other multi-unit buildings shall be considered consistent with the goals of 30-A M.R.S. §§ 4364 to 4364-B.
3. A municipality may not categorically prohibit accessory dwelling units in the shoreland zone that would otherwise meet the shoreland zoning requirements established by the Department of Environmental Protection, Title 28, Chapter 3, and municipal shoreland zoning ordinances.

B. REQUIREMENTS

1. Accessory Dwelling Unit Allowance

An accessory dwelling unit may be constructed only:

- a) Within an existing dwelling unit on the lot;
- b) Attached to a single-family dwelling unit; or
- c) As a new structure on the lot for the primary purpose of creating an accessory dwelling unit.

A municipality may allow an accessory dwelling unit to be constructed or established within an existing accessory structure, except the setback requirements of Section 4(B)(3)(b)(i) shall apply.

2. Zoning

With respect to accessory dwelling units, municipalities with zoning ordinances and municipalities without zoning must comply with the following conditions:

- (a) At least one accessory dwelling unit must be allowed on any lot where a single-family dwelling unit is the principal structure;
- (b) If more than one accessory dwelling unit has been constructed on a lot as a result of the allowance pursuant to this Section, the lot is not eligible for any additional units or increases in density, except as allowed by the municipality. Municipalities have the discretion to determine if a dwelling unit or accessory dwelling unit has been constructed on a lot for purposes of this provision; and
- (c) An accessory dwelling unit is allowed on a lot that does not conform to the municipal zoning ordinance if the accessory dwelling unit does not further increase the nonconformity, meaning the accessory dwelling unit does not cause further deviation from the dimensional standard(s) creating the nonconformity, excluding lot area.

3. Other

With respect to accessory dwelling units, municipalities must comply with the following conditions:

- a) A municipality must exempt an accessory dwelling unit from any density requirements or lot area requirements related to the area in which the accessory dwelling unit is constructed;
- b) For an accessory dwelling unit located within the same structure as a single-family dwelling unit or attached to a single-family dwelling unit, the dimensional requirements, excluding lot area requirements, and setback requirements must be the same as the dimensional requirements and setback requirements of the single-family dwelling unit;
 - i. For an accessory dwelling unit permitted in an existing accessory building or secondary building or garage as of the implementation date, the required setback requirements in local ordinance of the existing accessory or secondary building apply.
- c) A municipality may establish more permissive dimensional requirements and setback requirements for an accessory dwelling unit.
- d) An accessory dwelling unit may not be subject to any additional motor vehicle parking requirements beyond the parking requirements of the single-family dwelling unit on the lot where the accessory dwelling unit is located.
- e) An accessory dwelling unit that was not built with municipal approval must be allowed if the accessory dwelling unit otherwise meets the requirements for accessory dwelling units of the municipality and under this Section.

4. Size

- a) An accessory dwelling unit must be at least 190 square feet in size, unless the Technical Building Code and Standards Board, pursuant to 10 M.R.S. §9722, adopts a different minimum standard; if so, that standard applies.
- b) Municipalities may set a maximum size for accessory dwelling units in local ordinances, as long as accessory dwelling units are not less than 190 square feet.

5. Water and Wastewater

A municipality must require an owner of an accessory dwelling unit to provide written verification that the proposed accessory dwelling unit is to be connected to adequate water and wastewater services prior to certification of the accessory dwelling unit for occupancy or similar type of approval process. Written verification must include the following:

- a) If an accessory dwelling unit is connected to a public, special district or other comparable sewer system, proof of adequate service to support any additional flow created by the unit and proof of payment for the connection to the sewer system;
- b) If an accessory dwelling unit is connected to a septic system, proof of adequate sewage disposal for subsurface wastewater. The septic system must be verified as adequate by a local plumbing inspector pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §4221. Plans for a subsurface wastewater disposal must be prepared by a licensed site evaluator in accordance with 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 241, *Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules*;
- c) If an accessory dwelling unit is connected to a public, special district or other centrally managed water system, proof of adequate service to support any additional flow created by the unit, proof of payment for the connection and the volume and supply of water required for the unit; and
- d) If an accessory dwelling unit is connected to a well, proof of access to potable water, including the standards outlined in 01-672 C.M.R. Ch. 10 section 10.25(J), *Land Use Districts and Standards*. Any test of an existing well or proposed well must indicate that the water supply is potable and acceptable for domestic use.

C. MUNICIPAL IMPLEMENTATION

In adopting an ordinance under this Section, a municipality may:

1. Establish an application and permitting process for accessory dwelling units that does not require planning board approval
2. Impose fines for violations of building, zoning and utility requirements for accessory dwelling units; and

3. Establish alternative criteria that are less restrictive than the above criteria in Section 4 for the approval of an accessory dwelling unit only in circumstances in which the municipality would be able to provide a variance pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §4353(4)(A), (B), or (C).

D. RATE OF GROWTH ORDINANCE

A permit issued by a municipality for an accessory dwelling unit does not count as a permit issued toward a municipality's rate of growth ordinance pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. §4360.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

PL 2021 Ch. 672, PL 2023 Ch. 192, and PL 2023, ch. 264, codified at 30-A M.R.S. §§ 4364, 4364-A, 4364-B.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

April 18, 2023 – filing 2023-056

AMENDED

APPENDIX

List of Reference Material

Reference Material	Location to Obtain Document
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Drinking Water Standards and Health Advisories Table, March 2018.	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Water Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791
10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 231, Rules Relating to Drinking Water, May 9, 2016	Maine Department of Health & Human Services Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention 11 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333 207-287-8016
Resolve 2021, Ch. 82, Resolve, To Protect Consumers of Public Drinking Water by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Substances and Contaminants	Maine State Legislature Legislative Information Office- Document Room 100 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333 207-287-1408 webmaster_house@legislature.maine.gov
01-672 C.M.R. Ch. 10, Land Use Districts and Standards, December 30, 2022	Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning Land Use Planning Commission 22 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333 207-287-2631
10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 241, Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules, August 3, 2015	Maine Department of Health & Human Services Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention 11 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333 207-287-8016