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The Weekly Recap

WHAT HAPPENED: The chambers kept a busy clip this week, but less-so on issues of direct significance to city and town governments, as the 2023 legislative session continued on Jones Street in Raleigh.

WHAT IT MEANS: The Senate made news by [passing Medicaid expansion](#) after years of debate over the subject; the House still needs to give approval and has the bill on its calendar for next week. Meanwhile, the House this week considered more bills on controversial topics that received Gov. Roy Cooper's veto stamp in past sessions.

ON TAP: There were a few bills filed of interest to cities and towns and we'll monitor their progress. We'd also like your thoughts on them. Please read on in this Bulletin for articles about bills related to land-use and please provide us feedback.

THE SKINNY: It was a lesser week in terms of bill activity for our audience but news-making indeed. As we keep tabs on the activity, also take note of the registration period, now open, for our upcoming annual conference, CityVision, covering a variety of timely topics of importance to cities and towns and empowering our local officials to network together. We've also opened the nomination period for the 2023 NCLM Board of Directors.

2023 NCLM Board of Directors Nominating Period Now Open

Submit Interest by March 31

As a member-led and member-driven organization, electing strong leadership is an essential member responsibility. The League's Board of Directors represents a diverse group of cities and towns of all sizes, from the mountains to the coast. Working together with the entire membership,

the Board is dedicated to representing the interests of all members and leading the League as one voice for cities and towns working for a better North Carolina.

Please encourage qualified candidates to run for the Board. If you are interested in serving as an officer or director, please submit a candidate nomination form before 5 p.m. on Friday, March 31.

You can view the elections timeline, Nominating Committee, open positions, and learn more about the process at [Election.NCLM.org](https://www.nclm.org/election).

Bill to Address Workforce Housing Crisis Introduced

Senators introduced a bill this week that would establish a statewide mandate for local communities to allow “workforce housing developments,” a new type of residential development not subject to local planning and zoning regulations. [SB 317 Addressing the Workforce Housing Crisis](#) would allow workforce housing developments within any zoning district or territorial area of a local government so long as the project covers at least 10 acres, with at least 20 percent of the lots devoted to single-family detached homes, townhomes, or duplexes. At least half of the 20 percent, or 10 percent of the total development, must be sold to owner-occupants making up to 80 percent of the federally published area median income (AMI). The remainder of the 20 percent of the designated workforce housing may go to owner-occupants earning up to 100 percent AMI. Those owner-income limitations would last for one year under the proposal, at which time the income limitations would be lifted.

The measure also proposes a shot clock for preliminary site plan review, requiring a decision on workforce housing projects within 60 days of the application. Local governments may also be compelled to provide water & sewer hookups without fees, unless the system is at capacity, or the existing infrastructure is more than 3 miles away. In a bipartisan showing, nearly two-thirds of the state Senate has signed up as a primary sponsor or co-sponsor for the bill.

NCLM Government Affairs staffers are interested in feedback from the League membership on this bill. Please send comments to Derrick Applewhite, Government Affairs Associate, dapplewhite@nclm.org.

Proposal Mandates Accessory Dwelling Units in Residential Zoning Districts

Affordable housing is top of mind this week as state legislators introduced [HB 409 Regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units](#). While cities and towns already have authority to pursue them if they wish, this bill would mandate accessory dwelling units (ADU) in areas zoned for residential use for the development of single-family detached homes. Under the proposal, ADUs would not be subject to local parking requirements, conditional-use zoning, nor owner-occupancy requirements. Additionally, local governments would not be allowed to deny utility connections to the units or require permits beyond applicable building permits.

Advancing Advocacy returns March 23

The North Carolina General Assembly is now considering some consequential land-use planning legislation, potentially restricting local authority in this all-important policy area that affects everything from the local economy to residents' quality of life. **Join us on Thursday, March 23 at 11 a.m. for [another session of Advancing Advocacy](#), as we discuss housing-related proposals, development approval shot clock legislation, and the potential for extraterritorial jurisdiction restrictions.** We will also look at some of the ways that NCLM is attempting to educate policymakers on these issues, and want to hear your feedback.

This virtual session is free of charge. You can participate by registering [here](#).



CityVision 2023 Registration Open!

Concord | April 25-27

Registration is open for the 2023 CityVision conference in Concord! Here's what to expect:

- **Networking** Meet with other local government professionals to share ideas, challenges, and strategies. We will also be re-instating a traditional exhibit hall providing more time to get to know your peers and local government partners!
- **Learning** Join us for a variety of pre-conference, general, and breakout sessions throughout the conference. Learn more about human resources strategies, grant and funding opportunities, leadership tactics, and more!
- **Exploring** There will be ample opportunity to explore Concord during our social events, off-site tours, and afternoon breaks.

NEW: Pre-conference will be on Tuesday, April 25 and includes additional education sessions and an exhibit hall reception included with your conference registration! If you can't make it to the whole conference, join us for pre-conference only and you will still get great networking and learning opportunities.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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