

**Government Oversight Committee –Biennial Plan for Program Reviews and Projects (updated 3/25/19)**

Prepared by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability

Project Topic	Responsible Agency	General Scope	Detailed scope available?	OPEGA phase	GOC vote on project re: biennial plan 4/12/19
Approved* GOC has voted to direct OPEGA to conduct the following reviews/projects					
<b>Maine Citizen Initiative Process</b>  Request Received: 10/2/2017 GOC approved: 11/9/2017	Sec. of State  Governmental Ethics & Election Practices  ME Legislature	Trends in activity and characteristics for people’s veto and direct initiatives over time; geographic distribution of signatures collected on efforts qualified for ballot; and potential opportunities for improved efficiency, transparency and accountability in the referendum process.	Yes  Approved: 1/26/2018	Fieldwork	
<b>CPS: Out of Home Placements for Children Removed from Care by DHHS/OCFS</b>  Per GOC: 3/22/2019	Dept. of Health and Human Services / Office of Child and Family Services  Various entities, providers	Assess the availability and types of out-of-home placement options; the extent to which hoteling occurs; the recruitment, retention, training, and licensing of foster parents; responsibilities of foster parents; the extent to which OCFS provides various supports to foster parents.		(awaiting GOC prioritization, additions, subtractions of approved projects)	
<b>Follow-up Survey: OCFS Frontline Workers</b>  Per GOC: 3/22/2019	Dept. of Health and Human Services / Office of Child and Family Services	Gather perspectives of OCFS staff (intake, assessment, permanency) subsequent to DHHS implementation of changes using replicated survey questions from the initial project; evaluate staff views of work load, quality of work, adequacy of resources, job satisfaction, among other factors.		Planning	
<b>ReEmployME System</b>  Request Received: 3/9/2018 GOC approved: 3/23/2018	ME Dept. of Labor  Office of Information Technology	Maine’s involvement in the four-state unemployment system consortium; development and implementation of ReEmployME system; and DOL response(s) to post-implementation issues experienced by claimants and potential claimants.		Preliminary Research (direction pending scheduled DOL comment before GOC)	

<b>Special Project: OCFS</b> Per GOC motion:6/28/2018	Dept. of Health and Human Services / Office of Child and Family Services	Assess status of DHHS child protective strategic initiatives (presented 5/18) and impact of those initiatives on noted areas for concern or improvement.	No	Paused per GOC vote 3/22/19 (pending update from DHHS)	
<b>Tax Expenditure Evaluation: Reimbursement for Business Equipment Tax Exemption to Municipalities (BETE) Reimbursement for Taxes Paid on Certain Business Property (BETR)</b> Per statute: 3 MRSA §998	Maine Revenue Services Municipal Government	Fiscal impacts, effectiveness of program design; extent to which program is achieving intended purposes and goals; extent to which program is coordinated with, complementary to or duplicative of other programs with similar purposes and goals.	Yes Parameters approved:	Fieldwork	
<b>Tax Expenditure Evaluation: Maine Capital Investment Credit</b> Per statute: 3 MRSA §998-1001	Maine Revenue Services	Fiscal impacts, effectiveness of program design; extent to which program is achieving intended purposes and goals; extent to which program is coordinated with, complementary to or duplicative of other programs with similar purposes and goals.	Yes Parameters approved:	Planning (not yet active)	
<b>Expedited Tax Expenditure Review: Charitable exemptions</b> Per Statute: 3 MRSA §998-1001	Maine Revenue Services	Fiscal impacts, administrative costs; extent to which it is consistent with and effective in implementing broad tax policy; effectiveness of design; adequate mechanism to ensure compliance by intended beneficiaries.	See 3 MRSA §1000		
<b>*Pine Tree Development Zones</b> pursuant to P.L. 2017 ch. 440 30-A MRSA §5250-P (2) (LD 1654 from 128 <sup>th</sup> Legislature) Not approved by GOC – enacted as legislation separate from established tax expenditure review schedule.  <u>Statutory due date:</u> 1/15/2021	Dept. of Economic and Community Development Maine Revenue Services	Fiscal impacts, effectiveness of program design; extent to which program is achieving intended purposes and goals; extent to which program is coordinated with, complementary to or duplicative of other programs with similar purposes and goals.  GOC and OPEGA shall consider public policy objective of PTZ as described (new) under 30-A MRSA §5250-P (2)(A) and performance measures listed in (2)(B).	See 30-A MRSA §5250-P(2)		Would require statutory change to remove or change report date
Approved - Pending planning GOC has voted to direct OPEGA to conduct these projects – but inactive due to GOC prioritizing other projects					
<b>DHHS Audit Functions</b> Request Received: 2/2013 GOC approved: 4/16/2013	Dept. of Health and Human Services	Effectiveness of DHHS audit functions in identifying and addressing fraud, waste and abuse in programs administered by the department.	No	No action	

<b>Substance Abuse Treatment Programs in Corrections System</b>  Request Received: 3/27/2009 Placed on stand-by list: 3/27/2009 GOC approved: 8/23/2017	Dept. of Corrections  Dept. of Health and Human Services / Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services	Effectiveness and/or cost-effectiveness of programs in rehabilitating participants and reducing recidivism.	No	No action	
<b>Recently Completed</b> OPEGA reviews presented to GOC in this calendar year (2019)					
<b>CPS Special Project: OCFS Frontline Worker Perspectives</b>	Dept. of Health and Human Services / Office of Child and Family Services	Gather input and perspectives from OCFS caseworkers and supervisors on factors impacting staff retention and effectiveness and efficiency in child protective work.	No	Presented: 2/22/2019 Endorsed: 3/22/2019	
<b>Tax Expenditure Evaluation: Employment Tax Increment Financing</b>  Per Statute 3 MRSA §998	Maine Revenue Services  Dept. of Economic and Community Development	Fiscal impacts, effectiveness of program design; extent to which program is achieving intended purposes and goals; extent to which program is coordinated with, complementary to or duplicative of other programs with similar purposes and goals.	Yes	Presented: 1/25/2019 Endorsed: 2/8/2019	
<b>Stand-by List</b> Requests for reviews that GOC considers potential projects (by vote) – but not yet voted by GOC directing OPEGA to conduct					
Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services  Request received: 2/2017 Added to stand-by: 3/2017 (new request by Sen. Keim for rapid review 2/22/19)	MCILS	Effectiveness of the commission in meeting its mission and economical use of resources. (2019 request provides more specific recommendations for scope)			
Maine Law Enforcement Agencies Undercover Operations  Request received: 2/17/2017 Added to stand-by: 4/28/2017	Various law enforcement agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval process for undercover operations</li> <li>• Oversight of undercover operations</li> <li>• Controls on the length of the operations</li> <li>• Funding for undercover operations</li> <li>• The role of the AG, if any, in approval and oversight</li> </ul>			

<p>Independent Living Services</p> <p>Request Received: 5/19/2016 Added to stand-by: 4/14/2017 (taken off list of approved projects)</p>	<p>Dept. of Labor</p> <p>Dept. of Health and Human Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alignment of programs and resources with needs of eligible client population</li> <li>• Efficient use of resources</li> <li>• Compliance with State and federal program and funding requirements</li> <li>• Coordination among programs</li> <li>• Effectiveness of programs and services in support of independent living</li> </ul>			
<p>Maine Power Options</p> <p>Request received:2/17/17 Added to stand-by: 2/17/17</p>	<p>ME Municipal Bond Bank</p> <p>ME Health and Higher Education Authority</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectiveness of the program in meeting intent</li> <li>• Effectiveness and transparency of RFP and contractor selection process for electricity supply</li> <li>• Public transparency of MPO activities and decisions</li> </ul>			
<p>Public Utilities Commission</p> <p>Request received: Per GOC after report on PUC 9/2013 Added to stand-by: (taken off list of approved projects and removed to on-deck)</p>	<p>PUC</p>	<p>Assessment of extent to which the PUC independently assesses risks and costs associated with ensuring safe, reasonable and adequate electrical services.</p>			
<p>Publicly Funded Programs for Children (birth to age 5)</p> <p>Request received: Per GOC after report on Child Dev. Services by OPEGA 7/2012 Added to stand-by: 9/2012</p>	<p>Dept. of Education</p> <p>Dept. of Health and Human Services</p>	<p>Strengths and weaknesses, including gaps, overlap and coordination, in the State's current programs for children birth to 5 years of age.</p>			

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