

Government Oversight Committee –Biennial Plan for Program Reviews and Projects (updated 1/24/20)

Prepared by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability

Project Topic	Responsible Agency	General Scope	Detailed scope available?	OPEGA phase
Approved* GOC has voted to direct OPEGA to conduct the following reviews/projects				
Maine Citizen Initiative Process 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 Paused, pursuant to prioritized MCILS review
CPS: Out of Home Placements for Children Removed from Care by DHHS/OCFS 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.	No	Preliminary Research
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) GOC approved: 4/12/2019	MCILS	Effectiveness of financial oversight of the commission and economical use of resources.	Yes	Fieldwork Project Direction areas 1 and 5 prioritized at 1-10-20 GOC meeting
Follow-up Survey: OCFS Frontline Workers 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.	No	Planning

Tax Expenditure Evaluation: Reimbursement for Business Equipment Tax Exemption to Municipalities (BETE) Reimbursement for Taxes Paid on Certain Business Property (BETR) 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	Drafting Planned presentation in February
Tax Expenditure Evaluation: Maine Capital Investment Credit 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	Drafting Planned presentation in February
Updated design assessment: Pine Tree Development Zones GOC approved a targeted design assessment on 8/14/2019	Dept. of Economic and Community Development Maine Revenue Services	Will look at changes made, if any, based on the design critiques included in the 2017 PTDZ review, as well as the newly adopted program objectives recently enacted into law by PL 2017, c. 440.	Yes	Project scope approved 12/10/19
Tax Expenditure Evaluation: Seed Capital Investment Tax Credit Per statute: 3 MRSA §998-1001	Finance Authority of Maine 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.	Parameters presented to GOC at 1-10-20 meeting	Pending GOC vote on evaluation parameters
Approved - Pending planning GOC has voted to direct OPEGA to conduct these projects – but inactive due to GOC prioritizing other projects				
Substance Abuse Treatment Programs in Corrections System 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

Recently Completed / Closed OPEGA reviews presented to GOC in calendar years 2019-2020				
CPS Special Project: OCFS Frontline Worker Perspectives	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
ReEmployME System Request Received: 3/9/2018 GOC approved: 3/23/2018 GOC removed from Work Plan: 5/10/19	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.	No	Closed after Preliminary Research
Special Project: Office of Child and Family Services Per GOC motion: 6/28/2018 GOC removed from Work Plan 10/15/19	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). GOC received DHHS update 9/23/19
Expedited Tax Expenditure Review: Charitable Exemptions 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	Complete Presented overview to GOC 8/14/19. No GOC vote required on report.
Tax Expenditure Evaluation: Employment Tax Increment Financing 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
Stand-by List				
Requests for reviews that GOC considers potential projects (by vote) – but not yet voted by GOC directing OPEGA to conduct				
DHHS Audit Functions Request Received: 2/2013 GOC approved: 4/16/2013 GOC moved to Stand-by List: 4/12/2019	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