



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Chad R. Perkins

POB 251
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426
Residence: (207) 279-0927
Fax: (207) 305-4907
chad.perkins@legislature.maine.gov

09 Feb 25

MEMORANDUM FOR: Government Oversight Committee, 132nd Maine Legislature,
Attn: Senator Craig D. Hickman, Senate Chair and Representative Anne-Marie
Mastraccio, House Chair, 82 State House Station, Room 104 Cross Building, Augusta,
Maine 04333-0082

SUBJECT: Investigative Request Into The Policies and Procedures For Releasing
Statutorily Required Reports To legislative Committees

Senator Hickman and Representative Mastraccio and Fellow Members of the
Government Oversight Committee,

1. As referenced in my letter, dated 23 Jan 25, I am requesting that this committee vote to direct the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) to conduct an investigation into the Policies and Procedures that led to the failure of reports being released by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS) to the Committee of Veteran and Legal Affairs (VLA) as required by 28-B MRS §113.
2. Before I continue, I want to inform the committee that my intent in requesting this investigation is not to target any person in particular. I am not looking to persecute any employee nor am I hunting for anyone's head. I whole heartedly believe that the will of the elected legislature, as encapsulated in statute, needs to be followed in good faith by those civil servants entrusted by the people to carry out that will and in that vein I am solely interested in determining all of the facts that led to the failure of the release of the report to ensure that such a failure does not occur again.
3. The facts as I understand them are as follows:
4. On the 16th of January of this year, Ms. Anya Trundy, Deputy Director of DAFS, stated to the VLA Committee during a hearing that she willingly and with intent withheld the reports from the committee and provided a letter on the 24th of January apologizing for her actions in doing so. She stated that at the time that the reports were due, in February 2023, she did not want to submit an unedited report, apparently because of how the report would be received or how the report would influence certain policy decisions.

House District 31

*Atkinson Township, Brownville, Dover-Foxcroft, Lake View Plantation, Medford, Milo, Orneville
Township, & Southeast Piscataquis*

Representative Chad R. Perkins

5. It has come to my attention that members of the VLA Committee of the 131st inquired about the report after the due date and were told that the report was being reviewed by the commissioner of DAFS. If true, this would lead me to conclude that the commissioner was aware that the report had not been submitted by the date required by statute.
6. I am requesting that OPEGA investigate the chain of events, by examining email and other retained communications, conducting interviews and other reasonable means as necessary, to determine the what failures of policy and procedure that occurred resulting in the failure of the release of the report as required.
7. Upon obtaining the required information, I am requesting that OPEGA examine existing published policies, standard operating procedures and training standards to identify any deficiencies and make recommendations to correct any deficiencies.
8. It is my true hope that such a study can identify any existing human failures and system faults and, in doing so, the committee can assist all agencies, not just DAFS, in ensuring the maximum amount of professionalism, transparency and stewardship between state agencies and the legislature.

Respectfully,



Rep. Chad R. Perkins
District 31

DIST:

Sen. Mike Tipping
Sen. Jill Duson
Sen. Jeff Timberlake
Sen. Rick Bennett
Sen. Bradlee Farrin
Rep. Ann Matlack
Rep. Adam Lee
Rep. Michael Lemelin
Rep. John Eder

House District 31

*Atkinson Township, Brownville, Dover-Foxcroft, Lake View Plantation, Medford, Milo, Orneville
Township, & Southeast Piscataquis*