

Current legislation which may be of interest to the Government Oversight Committee

Updated by OPEGA for GOC June 21 2019

LD #	Title and sponsor	Summary	Current Status and Comment
Bills that amend Title 3 chapter 37 (GOC/OPEGA governing statute)			
1511	An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Exceptions (Rep. Bailey)	The bill amends the statutes governing the confidentiality of the working papers of the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability to clarify that the working papers, whether in the possession of the office or an entity with which the office director has contracted, remain confidential even after the report is released to the public. It removes duplicative language that is already captured in the definition of "working papers."	Died in Non-concurrence 6/19/19
Potentially similar to current work of the GOC			
1554	Resolve, Establishing a Commission To Reform Child Protective Services (Sen. Diamond)	This resolve establishes the Commission To Reform Child Protective Services. The duties of the 13-member Commission are to study and hold public hearings on reforms to the laws governing the protection of vulnerable children in state care. The commission is required to submit a report by February 2020, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature. In making appointments, presiding officers must consider members from HHS and CJPS.	Carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129 th Legislature pursuant to Joint Order 6/20/19
Amending the tax expenditure review process			
1069	An Act To Amend the Tax Expenditure Review Process (Rep. Tipping)	Changes date by which OPEGA provides information to TAX for tax expenditure reviews, category B (expedited). Current law requires that information be provided by July 1. Beginning in 2019, the information must be submitted by December 15 th . (Due to the fact that this is not yet law, and not proposed as an emergency, OPEGA will have information ready to provide by July 1.) Current law requires TAX review of the information and submission of report by December 1 (after info received from OPEGA). LD 1069 changes the date to March 1 st .	Enacted PL 2019, c. 161
1629	An Act Regarding Future Evaluations of the Pine Tree Development Zone Program (Rep. Mastraccio)	Removes the specific date (January 2021) which required OPEGA to conduct a (second) full tax expenditure review which requires consideration of newly established policy objectives and performance measures.	Enacted PL 2019, c. 305

Directing OPEGA to complete a full tax expenditure review or program design assessment			
1200	An Act To Amend the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program (Emergency) (Sen. Pouliot)	<p>Committee amendment directs OPEGA to complete full tax expenditure review by February 1, 2023 and requires consideration of specific policy objectives and enumerated performance measures (established in the amendment).</p> <p><i>*Unanimous committee report which removed date for OPEGA report was adopted prior to being placed on the table.</i></p>	Carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129 th Legislature pursuant to Joint Order 6/20/19
1520	An Act To Create and Sustain Jobs through Development of Cooperatives and Employee-owned Businesses (Sen. Libby)	<p>Requires OPEGA, by February 28, 2027 to conduct an evaluation of a program deductions provided to retain jobs in qualifying businesses that would otherwise cease operations by reducing the tax impact to business owners from qualifying sales of ownership interests in order to encourage conversion of businesses to employee and cooperative ownership and thereby allow the businesses to continue operations and retain jobs</p> <p>The deduction excludes from Maine income tax the amount of gain, up to a maximum of \$750,000 recognized by a business owner in transferring the business to an employee stock ownership plan, eligible worker-owned cooperative, consumer cooperative or affordable housing cooperative.</p> <p><i>*Unanimous committee report which removed date for OPEGA report was adopted prior to being placed on the table.</i></p>	Carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129 th Legislature pursuant to Joint Order 6/20/19
1586	An Act To Promote Major Food Processing and Manufacturing Facility Expansion and To Create Jobs in Maine (President Jackson)	<p>Directs OPEGA to conduct a design assessment of the tax expenditure program (similar to what was done for MBHE) by February 1, 2024. Credits under the program can be claimed beginning with tax year 2022.</p> <p><i>*P.L. chapter 386 does not require OPEGA evaluation to be completed by a specific date.</i></p>	Enacted as Emergency PL 2019, c. 386 (effective 6/19/19)
1645	An Act To Create Affordable Workforce and Senior Housing and Preserve Affordable Rural Housing (Rep. Fecteau)	<p>Establishes a new tax credit and requires OPEGA to conduct a full tax expenditure review by February 1, 2024.</p> <p><i>*Unanimous committee report which removed date for OPEGA report was adopted prior to being placed on the table.</i></p>	Carried over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129 th Legislature pursuant to Joint Order 6/20/19

Specific reference to previously submitted OPEGA reports

50	An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Government Oversight Committee To Improve the Development of a Long-range Strategic Plan for Economic Improvement in the State (Rep. Mastraccio)	<p>Re-submission of GOC bill, LD 367 from the 128th (died on Special App. Table). Bill is based on 2006 OPEGA report of economic development programs in the State.</p> <p>This bill provides additional clarity, requirements and resources for the Maine Economic Growth Council's efforts to fulfill its current statutory mandate to develop, monitor and maintain a long-range strategic economic improvement plan for the State. It also includes provisions to support the State's achievement of the goals and objectives in that plan by establishing requirements for the Governor, Legislature and agencies with relevant programs and activities to consider the long-range strategic economic improvement plan and provide information to the Maine Economic Growth Council at the request of the council.</p>	Died pursuant to Joint Rule 310.3 6/6/19
1628	An Act To Implement Recommendations of the Department of Environmental Protection Regarding the State's Container Redemption Laws (Rep. Tucker)	ENR committee bill submitted to implement recommendations of DEP report which references and incorporates recommendations from 2018 OPEGA report	Passed to be Enacted 6/20/19
25	An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Government Oversight Committee Regarding Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations Reporting Requirements (Rep. Mastraccio)	Public Law 2019, c. 13 implements recommendations of the Government Oversight Committee based on the report on the Maine State Lottery issued by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability in April 2017. The law modifies the BABLO director's annual reporting requirements must include specific information on lottery activities and finances and marketing and advertising efforts and a listing of decisions made by the State Liquor and Lottery Commission and actions taken as a result. It makes similar changes with regard to liquor reporting for consistency.	Enacted PL 2019, c. 13