

**Review Request
February 26, 2021**

#	Topic Area	Possible Areas of Focus	Rough \$ estimate	Covered by other topic?	Past or current efforts in this area?
	Maine Wild Blueberry Commission (WBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective and proper use of blueberry tax revenue by the WBC. • Nature and effectiveness of the relationship between the industry, the Commission and industry marketing group Wild Blueberries of North America (WBANA). • Nature and adequacy of oversight of the WBC and WBANA. 	The amount budgeted to the WBC for each of the next two years is \$1,875,000 per year. The WBC is funded by an industry tax, currently 3/4 cent per pound from growers and 3/4 cent per pound from processors or shippers for a total of 1.5 cents per pound of wild blueberries produced or processed in the State.	No	No
<p>The Wild Blueberry Commission (WBC) of Maine currently consists of eight members appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The WBC elects a chair and vice chairperson from among its members and employs an executive director to execute the administrative responsibilities of the wild blueberry tax program. Maine Statute also provides for a Wild Blueberry Advisory Committee, which consists of seven members appointed by the WBC who serve four years terms. The Wild Blueberry Advisory Committee is a standing committee of the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine and reports to the Commission.</p>					
<p>The programs and activities of the WBC include the promotion, advertising, research and extension educational programs and other activities related to the economic viability of the Maine wild blueberry industry. Most of the research and all of the extension services are programmed through the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Program of the University of Maine. The WBC's market development and promotional activities are conducted through the Wild Blueberry Association of North America (WBANA) The WBC also works on agricultural and food policy at the state and federal level in support of Maine's wild blueberry growers and processors.</p>					
<p>LEGISLATIVE SPONSORS: Senator Moore, Representative Perry, Representative Alley, Representative Tuell, Representative Javner and Representative Newell</p>					