

CHAPTER 310-B

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

§3201. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

1. Director. "Director" means the Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs appointed pursuant to section 3203.

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

2. Office. "Office" means the Maine Office of Community Affairs established by section 3202.

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).

§3202. Office established; purpose

The Maine Office of Community Affairs is established as an agency in the executive branch to foster communications and partnerships between the State and communities in this State. The office shall engage with municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils to provide coordinated and efficient planning, technical assistance and financial support to better plan for challenges, pursue solutions and create stronger, more resilient communities. [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

The office is established to partner with communities in this State and regional councils by: [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

1. Assistance and funding. Providing technical assistance and funding related to planning to municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils that supports a sustainable future for the State's people, communities, natural resources, physical infrastructure, industries, businesses and institutions; and

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

2. Coordination and communication. Facilitating general coordination and communication between municipalities, tribal governments, regional councils and State Government.

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).

§3203. Director

The Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs is appointed by the Governor and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The director must have demonstrated experience and leadership in municipal or regional government and must bring expertise in planning, technical assistance and grant programs for communities. [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).

§3204. Powers and duties

The director shall exercise the powers of the office and is responsible for the execution of the duties of the office. [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

1. Duties of director. The director shall:

A. Appoint and remove office staff and prescribe staff duties as necessary to implement the duties of the office, including:

(1) Hiring professional staff that have education, training and experience in the fields of planning and development, local and regional government, climate science and resilience, housing, building codes and general policy making; and

(2) Employing additional staff as necessary to support the work of the office; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

B. Supervise and administer the affairs of the office and advise the Governor and other officials of State Government on matters of communication and partnerships between the State, municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils in this State; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

C. At the request of the Governor, act for the State in the initiation of or participation in any multigovernmental agency program related to the purposes of the office; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

D. At the request of the Governor, prepare and submit a budget for the office; and [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

E. At the request of the Governor, report on the activities of the office and, after consultation with and approval by the Governor, submit recommendations for legislative action as are determined necessary to further the purposes of this chapter. [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

2. Duties of office. Under the supervision of the director, the office shall:

A. Provide technical assistance and resources to municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils on issues related to planning, climate resilience and development; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

B. Collect and collate data and statistics relating to the issues described in paragraph A and provide them to municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

C. Assist municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils, as well as the State, in applying for, using and leveraging federal funding resources on issues of importance to communities and the State; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

D. Make grants from money appropriated to the office by the Legislature and any funds received by the office for the purposes of the office, including federal funding or private funds; solicit applications for grants; and make grant awards to eligible communities and to service provider organizations as determined by the office, including establishing eligibility requirements and other criteria to consider in awarding grants; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

E. Administer contracts with regional councils and regional planning and development districts to provide technical assistance and resources to municipalities and tribal governments on issues related to planning, climate resilience and development, including but not limited to land use planning, planning for housing and other residential development, climate resilience planning and related infrastructure planning, building codes and other forms of local development assistance to support state, regional and local goals; and [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

F. Consult with and provide ongoing coordination with state agencies on programs and issues related to planning technical assistance and funding to communities in this State, including but not limited to the Department of Transportation; Department of Environmental Protection; Department of Marine Resources; Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; Department of Agriculture,

Conservation and Forestry; Department of Economic and Community Development; Department of Health and Human Services; Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency; Department of Public Safety; Maine State Housing Authority; Governor's Energy Office; Efficiency Maine Trust; the Maine Historic Preservation Commission; and the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority. [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).

§3205. Acceptance and administration of funds

The office may accept, administer and expend funds, including but not limited to funds from the Federal Government or from private sources, for purposes consistent with this chapter. The director shall provide a report of the amount of any outside funding received from private sources and its designated purpose to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over municipal matters on an annual basis. [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).

§3206. Contracts; agreements

The office may employ expert and professional consultants, contract for services as the director determines necessary within the limits of the funds provided and consistent with the powers and duties of the office and enter into agreements with the Federal Government and other agencies and organizations that promote the objectives of this chapter. [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2 (NEW).

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