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MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Review of Citizen Initiative Process

The Government Oversight Committee (GOC) added a review of the Citizen Initiative Process to OPEGA's Work Plan on November 9, 2017 following consideration of a GOC member's request for a review and OPEGA's case study research on the York County Casino Referendum. The GOC directed that OPEGA submit a recommendation on project direction in January 2018.

On January 26, 2018, the GOC voted to continue with a more detailed review of the Citizen Initiative Process and approved the following scope questions:

1. What are the trends in activity and characteristics for people's veto and direct initiative efforts over time?
2. What has been the geographic distribution for signatures collected on people's vetoes and direct initiatives that qualified for the ballot?
3. To what extent have direct initiatives that qualified for the ballot in the last twenty years dealt with matters that had previously been before the Legislature?
4. What opportunities exist to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and economical use of resources in the people's veto and direct initiative processes?
5. What opportunities exist to improve transparency and accountability in people's veto and direct initiative efforts?

OPEGA expects to complete this review in the third quarter of 2018.