

Quarterly Listing of Audit Requests for GOC Consideration

Fourth Quarter 2015						
#	Topic Area	Possible Areas of Focus	Rough \$ estimate	Covered by other topic?	Past or current efforts in this area?	Additional Information
1	The Board of Licensing for Professional Land Surveyors-- Department of Professional and Financial Regulation	The Board's effectiveness in addressing complaints filed against licensed surveyors.	<p>Board is funded through dedicated revenue from licensees. Cost of a two year license is \$275.</p> <p>2015 actual expenditures: \$96,641</p> <p>2016 budget: \$82,540</p>	No	No	<p>The Board of Professional Land Surveyors is authorized under Title 32 MRSA ch. 141, Title 5 §12004-A, subsection 21 and Title 10 §8003, subsection 5-A.</p> <p>The State Board of Licensure for Professional Land Surveyors was established to protect the public through regulation of the practice of land surveying in the State of Maine. There are currently 542 licensed professional surveyors and 99 surveyors in training.</p> <p>The board has seven members appointed by the Governor for five year terms. The Board's makeup is established in statute as two public members and five licensed professional land surveyors who have been licensed for at least 10 years prior to appointment to Board. The Board falls under the administrative umbrella of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation (OPOR) within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.</p> <p>The primary responsibilities of the Board include setting licensing criteria for the profession, examining and licensing qualified applicants, hearing complaints against licensees and taking disciplinary action when necessary.</p> <p>OPOR provides administrative support for the Board's complaint process and there is an Assistant Attorney General assigned to the Board. Over the past 6 years, the Board of Professional Land Surveyors has averaged between 7 and 9 cases opened and concluded annually.</p>

Quarterly Listing of Audit Requests for GOC Consideration

						<p>The purpose of the licensing system is to protect the public against dishonest or unethical practitioners, and practitioners who have fallen below minimum standards of competence in the practice of their profession. Violators are subject to disciplinary action that can range from a formal warning to revocation of a license.</p> <p>This request resulted from concerns that the Board does not take appropriate action, up to and including revocation of licenses, in response to complaints about violations of licensing requirements and/or professional standards. Related concerns are that the Board may be biased in favor of land surveyors because so many members of the Board share that profession and that there is little turnover in Board members.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Quarterly Listing of Audit Requests for GOC Consideration

#	Topic Area	Possible Areas of Focus	Rough \$ estimate	Covered by other topic?	Past or current efforts in this area?	Additional Info
2	The Fund for A Healthy Maine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grantees' management and tracking of FHM funds they receive to ensure funds are actually spent for intended purposes. Grantees' actual use of FHM funds they receive, i.e. what do they pay for, who is getting paid and for what purposes. Portion of FHM funds used for administration versus actual services to targeted populations. Extent to which grantees are dependent on FHM funds to support their organizations. 	<p>Total FHM for FY2105: \$53,255,291</p> <p>\$48,828,466 Dedicated revenue from Tobacco settlement payments;</p> <p>\$4,421,515 from Casino revenue</p> <p>\$5,310 income from investments</p>	No	<p>The HHS Committee is currently conducting a Legislative Committee study: "Study of the Allocations of the Fund for a Healthy Maine"</p> <p>The final meeting was scheduled for November 20, 2015.</p> <p>OPEGA completed a review of four specific programs supported by the FHM and published the report in October 2009.</p> <p>In 2009, OPEGA also published an Information Brief titled: "Fund for a Healthy Maine Programs: A Comparison of Maine's Allocation to Other States and a Summary of Programs".</p>	<p>The Legislature established the Fund for a Healthy Maine (FHM) in 1999 to receive Maine's annual Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (TMSA) payments. 22 MRSA §1511 restricts uses of the fund to eight health-related purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> smoking prevention, cessation and control activities; prevention, education and treatment activities concerning unhealthy weight and obesity; prenatal and young children's care; health care for children and adults,; prescription drugs for adults who are elderly or disabled; dental and oral health care to low-income persons who lack adequate dental coverage; substance abuse prevention and treatment; and comprehensive school health and nutrition programs, including school-based health Centers. <p>The current study by the Health and Human Services Committee is a recurring effort that has been undertaken as a result of one of the recommendations from OPEGA's 2009 report. The purpose of the effort is to ensure that FHM allocations are aligned with the State's current public health care and</p>

Quarterly Listing of Audit Requests for GOC Consideration

						<p>preventive health priorities and goals. The Committee's report is due December 2nd.</p> <p>A number of other OPEGA recommendations from 2009 have also been implemented – including making the FHM its own fund within the State accounting system.</p> <p>The potential areas of focus for the current request are not duplicative of either OPEGA's 2009 review or the HHS Committee's current study. The request stems from legislator concerns that there is a lack of information and understanding about how FHM dollars are ultimately actually spent by grantees and subgrantees and whether those expenditures are for intended purposes.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--	--