



PETER SCHLECK
DIRECTOR

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF PROGRAM EVALUATION AND
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

DATE: August 16, 2023
TO: Government Oversight Committee
FROM: Peter Schleck, OPEGA Director
RE: Committee Action on Two Review Requests

Review Requests for GOC Determination

The Government Oversight Committee has received requests (one from another Committee's Chairs and one from a Senator) for reviews of two separate matters:

- (1) State Psychiatric Facilities Worker Safety (letter in Meeting Binder)
- (2) Maine Environment and Natural Resources Stewardship (Electronic Mail Message in Meeting Binder)

Required Committee Action

For each of the review requests, and following discussion, the GOC is requested take a vote to specify what action, if any, the Committee directs for each topic. A list of options is provided on the next page of this memo.

- Draft Motion Language: The Committee moves to [A., B., C., D., E., or F.] for request [1., or 2., above].
 - For motions requesting C. or D., please specify what information is sought and whether a direct response from the appropriate agency is expected.

List of Potential Options

The GOC can take a number of actions regarding the potential reviews, including but not limited to:

A. No Further Action at This Time- Option if the GOC believes that the requested review does not rise to the level of any of the OPEGA processes listed below.

B. Refer to the JSC of Jurisdiction or Other Appropriate Oversight Body- If the GOC finds that the nature of the request is such that it should be reviewed by another body, it can refer the concerns to that body with or without a request that the entity report back on any actions taken.

C. Preliminary Inquiry Only at This Time- The GOC can request OPEGA obtain additional background information on the topic to determine whether a review is appropriate.

- Specify what information is needed and whether a direct response from the appropriate agency is needed to facilitate further GOC direction

D. Authorize OPEGA to Conduct Limited Research and Respond to Requestor- For topics where limited research or analysis may be sufficient to answer a question for a legislator or legislative committee. OPEGA would communicate the results in a memo to the requestor with a copy to the GOC.

E. Place Request Topic "On Deck"- The "On Deck" category is for requests that the GOC believes would be a potentially valuable for potential future use of OPEGA resources, without formally adding it to the OPEGA Workplan yet . Topics are placed in the "On Deck" category by majority vote of the GOC. Topics "On Deck" will be considered for inclusion in OPEGA's future biennial work plan proposals to the GOC.

E. Place Request on OPEGA's Current Work Plan- Topics that the GOC wants OPEGA to review within the current biennium, but do not need to begin immediately, including in light of other GOC priorities and OPEGA's then-ongoing work, will be placed on OPEGA's work plan and scheduled as soon as possible.

F. Initiate Immediate Review- the immediate review system is for topics where credible information suggests there is allegation, event or information obtained that creates a suspicion of intentional wrong-doing or unintentional mismanagement and neglect. Immediate reviews may impact the completion timeframe for other OPEGA reviews in process, if OPEGA is directed to expedite the new matter, accordingly.

Sincerely,



Peter Schleck
Director