Office of Fiscal and Program Review

Mailing Address:

Physical Location

5 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333-0013 State House, Room 226 Telephone: Fax: Website

(207) 287-1635 (207) 287-6469 http://legislature.maine.gov/ofpr/

Who we are

The Office of Fiscal and Program Review (OFPR) is a nonpartisan office operating under the auspices of the Legislative Council. OFPR staff are prohibited from taking or advocating political positions on policy issues or engaging in any activities that might be construed as partisan or political. OFPR staff observe strict confidentiality policies and guidelines.

What we do

OFPR provides independent, accurate and objective information and analyses to members of the Maine State Legislature with respect to historical, current, projected and proposed appropriations, expenditures, taxes and revenue, as well as other fiscal information requested.

Committee staff services include:

- Staffing the Joint Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Committee on Taxation;
- Staffing the Transportation and Health and Human Services committees during budget deliberations;
- Providing fiscal and budget assistance to other committees as needed;
- Staffing the Revenue Forecasting Committee (two OFPR staff serve on the committee as members); and
- Staffing study groups, task forces and conference committees as assigned by the Legislative Council.

Fiscal tracking services include:

- Analyzing bills and amendments for fiscal impact to produce a fiscal note that summarizes the fiscal impact on state and local government finances; and
- Identifying, tracking and reporting on bills that are subject to or placed on the Special Appropriations Table and/or the Special Highway Table.

Fiscal monitoring, analysis and reporting services include:

- Assists the Appropriations Committee in fulfilling their statutory obligation to review the Financial Orders generated by the executive branch and approved by the Governor;
- Provides regular reporting on budgeted and actual fund balances, revenue performance, cash balances and spending of major state programs;
- Responds to inquiries from legislators, legislative staff and the general public regarding the financial position of the state and state programs; and
- Tracks and reviews the reports required to be provided to the Appropriations and Taxation Committees by various departments and agencies.

Publications

OFPR's primary publications include:

- <u>Compendium of State Fiscal Information (updated annually)</u>
- <u>Summary of Major State Funding Disbursed to Municipalities and Counties (updated annually)</u>
- The Budget Process (updated biennially)
- <u>The Fiscal Note Process: An Overview (updated biennially)</u>

Prepared by nonpartisan committee staff (November 2024)