

Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability

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104/105

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Who we are

The Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) is an independent, nonpartisan legislative office established and governed by [3 M.R.S.A. §§991-1001](#). With a focus on effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and economical use of resources, OPEGA conducts independent, evidence-based, objective reviews of state agencies, programs and activities to support the Legislature's oversight role monitoring and improving the performance of state government. Within this context, OPEGA also evaluates program compliance with laws, regulations, policies and best practices. OPEGA supports, and is overseen by, the Government Oversight Committee (GOC), which reviews and approves the office's annual work plan, directs the office to conduct program evaluations, and receives reports produced by the office.

What we do

OPEGA strives to provide timely, informative evaluation reports that are of high value to the Legislature and that support its oversight responsibilities. OPEGA's primary functions include:

Program Evaluations, Including of Tax Expenditures

- At the direction of the GOC, conducting independent and objective evaluations of state agencies, programs and activities, which may also include other entities receiving public funds administered by the State or expending private monies for public purposes;
- Pursuant to statute, conducting evaluations of tax expenditure programs, including economic development incentives; and
- Producing and presenting final written reports with detailed findings and results.

Government Oversight Committee Staffing

- Providing direct staffing to the GOC, with OPEGA's administrative secretary serving as the GOC committee clerk;
- Coordinating committee meetings, including preparing meeting materials and providing requested research; and
- Providing thorough, public presentations of OPEGA reports.

Review requests

Legislators can call OPEGA directly at 207-287-1901 to discuss submitting a review request to the GOC or visit OPEGA's website at <http://mainelegislature.org/opega/> and click on the "Request for a review" link on the left-hand side of the page.

Publications

OPEGA's primary publications include:

- Reports and information briefs from OPEGA program evaluations; and
- Annual reports on OPEGA activities and performance.