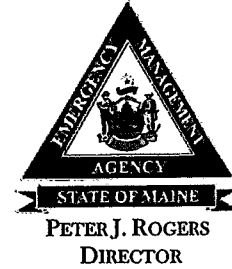




JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR
BG DIANE L. DUNN
COMMISSIONER

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March 12, 2024

Senator Tim Nangle, Chair
Representative Holly Stover, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 2241 An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government:

Our Agency opposes any attempt, pursuant to Title 5, section 12006, subsection 2, to eliminate the Homeland Security Advisory Council (hereinafter "Council"). MEMA requests that the Council be removed from the list of boards and committees considered for elimination.

The Council is responsible for advising the Governor on the coordination of homeland security activities of state agencies and the most effective use of grant funds. It is chaired by the Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency and is comprised of members from across several State Departments.

While the Council did not meet deliberately in calendar years 2022 or 2023, the Council was not inactive. Rather, the Council was engaged actively in efforts to revise the State of Maine's Homeland Security Strategy and in response to real world events, like the Lewiston Shooting. Accordingly, the Chair did not judge it necessary to meet in those calendar years. Furthermore, the Council has already met in calendar year 2024, having done so on January 18, 2024, and Annual reports have been filed with the Secretary of State's Office, as required.

Thank you for your consideration of our position as you move forward on a bill.

Sincerely,

Peter.J. Rogers (Mar 8, 2024 11:20 EST)
Peter J. Rogers, Director
Maine Emergency Management Agency