

LD 446 An Act To Reestablish the State Planning Office

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

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Date: March 17, 2021

electronic file available at <http://legislature.maine.gov/ctl/SLG/03-03-2021?panel=1&time=0&sortdir=0&sortby=2>

SUMMARY

This bill reestablishes the State Planning Office, eliminated in 2012, within the Office of the Governor. The State Planning Office has 3 core functions: to advise the Governor on developing and implementing policy; to assist the Legislature with information and analysis; and to administer financial and technical assistance programs to help build sustainable communities.

TESTIMONY***Sponsor:** Rep Bailey

- Executive and legislative branches should partner together to achieve shared vision for a better future
- Bottom up – engage local communities
- Make state resources available to local communities

Proponents: Maine Association of Planners by President Amanda Bunker; NRCM by Pete Didisheim, Advocacy Director; Greater Portland Council of Governments by President Kristin Egan; Maine Audubon by Eliza Donoghue; GrowSmart Maine; by ED Nancy Smith; Frank O'Hara; Matt Nixon, owner, Muddy River Farm Aquaponics; written only: Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission by ED, Paul Schumacher; Bicycle Coalition of Maine by Assistant Director James C. Tasse; Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission by ED Mary Ellen Barnes, Community Development Specialist Sandy Gilbreath and County Planner Emily Rabbe; South Berwick Conservation Commission by Secretary David Ramsay; Maine Association of Conservation Commissions by President Fred Snow

1. Restore planning resources at state and regional levels;
2. Statewide coordination for municipal, regional planning entities
3. land use planning and policy development
4. many specific suggestions
5. initiate study

Opponents: none

NFNA: Governor's Office by Director, Hannah Pingree; MMA by Rebecca Graham; Maine Job Council by ED Ben Lucas; written only: Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments by Shelley Norton; The Nature Conservancy by Rob Wood, Director of Government Relations and Climate Policy

- Office of Policy Innovation and the Future created by 129th
- 5 FTEs from former SPO; others moved into departments;
- Focused on coordination among regional organizations, nonprofits, private sector efforts
- Use bill as vehicle to study
- Expand stakeholders

* The section is not intended to reflect all comments and may include unintentionally errors.

MATTERS FOR POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION

Very few details

INFORMATION REQUESTS

129th legislation created the Office of Innovation and the Future (see Attachment A)

FISCAL IMPACT - Preliminary (OFPR)

None provided as of this date.

An Act Establishing the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future

§ 3101. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Director. "Director" means the Director of the ~~Governor's~~ Office of Policy Innovation and the Future established by section 3102.

2. Office. "Office" means the ~~Governor's~~ Office of Policy Innovation and the Future established by section 3102.

§ 3102. Office established; purpose

The Office of Policy Innovation and the Future is established in the Executive Department to: support the creation of a coherent system of policy planning and coordinated implementation as one function and responsibility of the executive branch; serve the Governor as a research, advisory, consultative, coordinating and administrative agency; and advance policies that support a sustainable future for the State's people, communities, natural resources, physical infrastructure, industries, businesses and institutions by:

1. Assistance; data; policy. Providing technical assistance and data to the Governor by undertaking special studies and plans as directed and preparing policy;

2. Coordination. Facilitating general intergovernmental coordination;

3. Innovation. Supporting state efforts to encourage innovation and policy that facilitate innovation in the public and private sectors;

4. Technology. Supporting improved technology use for government programs and advancing responsible state data policies;

5. Resources. Supporting the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; and

6. Analysis. Conducting ongoing demographic, economic, workforce and other needed analyses to support state policy makers.

§ 3103. Director

The Director of the ~~Governor's~~ Office of Policy Innovation and ~~Management~~the Future is appointed by the Governor and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

§ 3104-A. Powers and duties

The director shall exercise the powers of the office and is responsible for the execution of the duties of the office.

1. Duties of the director. The director shall:

A. Appoint and remove the staff of the office and prescribe the duties of the staff as necessary to implement the duties of the office, including:

(1) Hiring professional personnel competent by education, training and experience in the fields of economics and economic development, local and regional planning, statistics, human resources, natural resources, climate science, energy, transportation, finance, taxation, health, education and general science and policy making; and

(2) Employing office assistance as necessary to support the work of the office;

B. Supervise and administer the affairs of the office and advise the Governor and other officials of State Government on matters of statewide policy planning and consult with them about policy planning and development matters and projects that affect the future of the State and its people;

C. At the request of the Governor, act for the State in the initiation of or participation in any multi-governmental agency program related to the purposes of the office;

D. At the request of the Governor, prepare and submit a budget for the office; and

E. At the request of the Governor, report on the activities of the office and, after consultation with and approval by the Governor, submit such recommendations for legislative action as are determined necessary to further the purposes of this chapter.

2. Duties of the office. Under the supervision of the director, the office shall:

A. Provide technical assistance to the Governor in identifying intermediate and long-range goals and policies for the State and appropriate measures to achieve these goals;

B. Conduct continuing analysis of the economy, human resources, natural resources and energy resources of the State, as well as other issues as directed by the Governor; collect and collate all data and statistics relating to these matters; and assist the Governor and state departments in formulating policies and programs to achieve identified goals;

C. Participate with other states or their subdivisions in interstate policy planning and provide guidance to other state or local governments to assist their policy planning;

D. Assist the State in applying for, using and leveraging federal and private grant-making sources on issues of importance to the State; and

E. Act as a coordinating agency among departments and agencies of State Government on issues requiring multiple departments or agencies to work together to develop strategies to respond to state challenges.

§ 3106. Contracts; agreements

With the consent of the Governor the office may employ expert and professional consultants, contract for services as the director determines necessary, within the limits of the funds provided and consistent with the powers and duties of the office, and enter into agreements with the Federal Government and other agencies and organizations as will promote the objectives of this chapter.

§ 3107. Governmental cooperation; temporary reassignment of governmental employees

Any department, agency, authority, board, commission or other instrumentality of the State or other governmental unit may assist in the gathering of information, reports and data that relate to state policy planning and development. Upon request by the director, the Governor may assign to the office on a temporary basis personnel from any other state department or agency needed for a project assigned to the office.