

OPEGA Biennial Work Plan for 2017-2018 (Status updated as of 7-19-18)

Project Topic	Resp Dept	Phase	General Scope	Detailed Scope Avail?
In Progress				
Maine Citizen Initiative Process	Secretary of State; Maine Ethics Commission; and Maine State Legislature	Planning for Fieldwork	Trends in activity and characteristics for people's veto and direct initiatives over time; geographic distribution of signatures collected on efforts qualified for ballot; and potential opportunities for improved efficiency, transparency and accountability in the referendum process.	Yes
ReEmployME System	Dept. of Labor's Bureau of Unemployment	Preliminary Research	Maine's involvement in the four-state unemployment consortium; development and implementation of ReEmployME System; and DOL response(s) to post-implementation issues experienced by claimants and potential claimants.	No
Sale of Timber From Public Lands	Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Bureau of Parks and Lands	Fieldwork	Reason(s) that Pleasant River Lumber and Moose River Lumber stopped receiving timber harvested from Public Lands.	No
Special Project: Office of Child and Family Services, Child Protective Perspectives	Dept. of Health and Human Services' Office of Child and Family Services	Planning and Research	Gather input and perspectives from OCFS caseworkers and supervisors on factors impacting staff retention and efficiency and effectiveness of child protective work. Assess status of current DHHS child protective initiatives and impact of those initiatives on noted areas for concern or improvement.	No
Tax Expenditure Evaluation: Employment Tax Increment Financing	Dept. of Economic and Community Development	Reporting	Fiscal impacts, effectiveness of program design; extent to which program is achieving intended purposes and goals; extent to which those benefiting are the intended beneficiaries; administration of the program; and extent to which program is coordinated with, complementary to or duplicative of other programs with similar purposes and goals.	Yes

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Tax Expenditure Evaluation: Maine Capital Investment Credit	Maine Revenue Services	Planning	Fiscal impacts, effectiveness of program design; extent to which program is achieving intended purposes and goals; extent to which those benefiting are the intended beneficiaries; administration of the program; and extent to which program is coordinated with, complementary to or duplicative of other programs with similar purposes and goals.	Yes
Tax Expenditure Evaluation: Reimbursement for Business Equipment Tax Exemption to Municipalities (BETE) and Reimbursement for Taxes Paid on Certain Business Property (BETR)	Dept. of Economic and Community Development	Preliminary Research	Fiscal impacts, effectiveness of program design; extent to which program is achieving intended purposes and goals; extent to which those benefiting are the intended beneficiaries; administration of the program; and extent to which program is coordinated with, complementary to or duplicative of other programs with similar purposes and goals.	Yes
Completed				
Beverage Container Recycling Program (Bottle Bill)	Dept of Environmental Protection; Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry; and Maine Revenue Services		Extent to which program overall, and commingling specifically, are accomplishing the intended purposes; types of costs incurred by the State and Initiators of Deposit and potential cost offsets; extent to which there are effective measures to address risks of non-compliance and potential fraud and abuse; and how Maine's approach compares to other states.	Yes
Child Protection System: Two Case Studies	Dept. of Health and Human Services' Office of Child and Family Services		Breakdowns, gaps, challenges and barriers occurring in the reporting, handling and response to potential child abuse/neglect of two children.	No
DHHS Licensing and Regulation of Child Care Providers	Dept of Health & Human Services		Extent to which there is timely and effective investigation and action on reports of child care licensing violations or child abuse and neglect at child care centers; extent to which there is timely notification to current and prospective child care clients (parents) of allegations and findings against child cares.	Yes

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State Lottery	Dept. of Adm. And Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations		Governance and oversight of State Lottery; Lottery considerations for decisions on game offerings and marketing including whether particular demographic or geographic groups are targeted; how lottery winnings are considered when determining eligibility for public benefits; and analysis of lottery tickets purchases and winnings by county.	Yes
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Dept. of Health and Human Services' Office of Family Independence		Factors contributing to decline in TANF basic assistance caseload since 2010; changing use of federal TANF funds; effectiveness of processes for determining use of TANF funds and ensuring funds are spent on allowable supports and services; DHHS' evaluation of outcomes of efforts supported by TANF; and DHHS actions to minimize negative fiscal impacts from failure to meet federal work participation requirements.	Yes
Special Project: Tax Expenditure Expedited Reviews - Charitable and Specific Policy Goal/Mandate	Various		Provide Taxation Committee with information for conducting expedited reviews to include: description of the tax policy under review, description of each related tax expenditure and how the benefit is distributed; intended beneficiaries, fiscal impact and legislative history.	No
Special Project Tax Expenditure: Design Evaluation for Major Business Headquarters Expansion Credit	Dept. of Economic and Community Development		Effectiveness of program design; current and planned administration of the program.	No
Special Project: Tax Expenditure Expedited Reviews - Tax Fairness	Various		Provide Taxation Committee with information for conducting expedited reviews to include: description of the tax policy under review, description of each related tax expenditure and how the benefit is distributed; intended beneficiaries, fiscal impact and legislative history.	No

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Tax Expenditures Evaluation: New Markets Capital Investment Credit	Finance Authority of Maine		Fiscal impacts, effectiveness of program design; extent to which program is achieving intended purposes and goals; extent to which those benefiting are the intended beneficiaries; administration of the program; and extent to which program is coordinated with, complementary to or duplicative of other programs with similar purposes and goals.	Yes
Tax Expenditure Evaluation: Pine Tree Development Zones	Dept. of Economic and Community Development		Fiscal impacts, effectiveness of program design; extent to which program is achieving intended purposes and goals; extent to which those benefiting are the intended beneficiaries; administration of the program; and extent to which program is coordinated with, complementary to or duplicative of other programs with similar purposes and goals.	Yes
Planned				
DHHS Audit Functions	Dept. of Health and Human Services		Effectiveness of DHHS audit functions in identifying and addressing fraud, waste and abuse in programs administered by the Department.	No
Substance Abuse Treatment Programs in Corrections System	Department of Corrections and Office of Substance Abuse		Effectiveness and/or cost-effectiveness of programs in rehabilitating participants and reducing recidivism.	No