

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1830

H.P. 1301

House of Representatives, June 3, 2019

An Act Establishing the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MARTIN of Sinclair. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)
Cosponsored by Senator CLAXTON of Androscoggin.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA c. 310**, as amended, is repealed.

3 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA c. 310-A** is enacted to read:

4 **CHAPTER 310-A**

5 **OFFICE OF POLICY INNOVATION AND THE FUTURE**

6 **§3121. Definitions**

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

9 **1. Director.** "Director" means the Director of the Office of Policy Innovation and
10 the Future appointed pursuant to section 3123.

11 **2. Office.** "Office" means the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future established
12 by section 3122.

13 **§3122. Office of Policy Innovation and the Future; establishment; purposes**

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

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

23 **2. Coordination.** Facilitating general intergovernmental coordination;

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

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

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

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

1 **§3123. Director**

2 **1. Appointment; salary; qualifications.** The Director of the Office of Policy
3 Innovation and the Future is appointed by the Governor, serves at the pleasure of the
4 Governor and is paid a salary fixed by the Governor. The director must be qualified by
5 education, training and experience in policy planning or public administration.

6 **2. Duties.** The director shall exercise the powers of the office and is responsible for
7 the execution of the duties of the office. The director shall:

8 A. Appoint and remove the staff of the office and prescribe the duties of the staff as
9 necessary to implement the purposes of this chapter.

10 (1) The director is authorized to hire professional personnel competent by
11 education, training and experience in the fields of economics and economic
12 development, local and regional planning, statistics, human resources, natural
13 resources, climate science, energy, transportation, finance, taxation, health,
14 education and general science and policy making.

15 (2) The director is authorized to employ office assistance as required and
16 authorized by the budget;

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

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

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

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

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

32 **§3124. Office**

33 **1. Duties.** The office shall:

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

37 B. Conduct continuing analysis of the economy, human resources, natural resources
38 and energy resources of the State, as well as other issues as directed by the Governor;
39 collect and collate all data and statistics relating to these matters; and assist the

1 Governor and state departments in formulating policies and programs to achieve
2 identified goals;

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

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

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

10 **2. Contracts; agreements; funding.** The office may:

11 A. With the consent of the Governor, employ expert and professional consultants and
12 contract for services as the director determines necessary, within the limits of the
13 funds provided and consistent with the powers and duties of the office;

14 B. Enter into agreements with the Federal Government and other agencies and
15 organizations as will promote the objectives of this chapter; and

16 C. Accept funds from the Federal Government or from any individual, foundation or
17 corporation and expend these funds for purposes consistent with this chapter.

18 **Sec. 3. Construction.** Nothing in this Act or in the establishment of the Office of
19 Policy Innovation and the Future under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter
20 310-A may be construed to restrict, limit or alter any policy or planning authority
21 conferred by law to any state department or agency, director of a state department or
22 agency, instrumentality of the State, regional planning agency or municipality, except as
23 provided in this chapter.

24 **Sec. 4. Maine Revised Statutes amended; revision clause.** Wherever in the
25 Maine Revised Statutes the words "Governor's Office of Policy and Management" appear
26 or reference is made to that entity or those words, those words are amended to read or
27 mean, as appropriate, "Office of Policy Innovation and the Future" and the Revisor of
28 Statutes shall implement this revision when updating, publishing or republishing the
29 statutes.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill eliminates the Governor's Office of Policy and Management and establishes
32 the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to support the creation of a coherent
33 system of policy planning and coordinated implementation as one function and
34 responsibility of the executive branch of State Government, serve as a research, advisory,
35 consultative, coordinating and administrative agency and advance policies that support a
36 sustainable future for Maine's people, communities, natural resources, physical
37 infrastructure, industries, businesses and institutions.