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ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

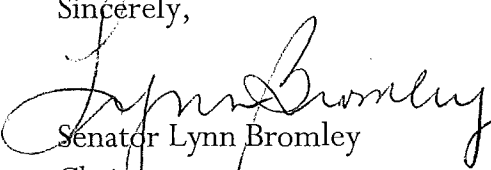
March 15, 2004


The Honorable Beverly C. Daggett
President of the Senate
The Honorable Patrick Colwell
Speaker of the House of Representatives
121st Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker:

Pursuant to Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35, we are pleased to submit the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development from the review and evaluation of the Maine Board of Optometry under the State Government Evaluation Act. In its review, the committee found that the board is operating in accordance with its statutory authority and is meeting its statutory and administrative mandate.

Sincerely,


Senator Lynn Bromley
Chair


Rep. Nancy B. Sullivan
Chair

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

March 15, 2004

To: The Honorable Beverly C. Daggett, Chair
The Honorable Patrick Colwell, Vice-Chair
Legislative Council, 121st Maine Legislature

From: Senator Lynn Bromley, Chair
Representative Nancy B. Sullivan, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development

Subject: Government Evaluation Act Review of Maine Board of Optometry

This memorandum is to inform you that the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development has submitted its findings and recommendations from the review and evaluation of the Maine Board of Optometry under the State Government Evaluation Act to the Legislature pursuant to Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

cc: Members, Legislative Council
Executive Director, Legislative Council

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Review of the Maine Board of Optometry
under the Government Evaluation Act**

The Government Evaluation Act

The Government Evaluation Act ("Act") provides for a system of periodic review of the efficacy and performance of state government agencies. The review of an agency's finances and programs must include a review of agency management and organization, program delivery, goals and objectives, statutory mandates and fiscal accountability (3 MRSA § 951 et seq). The law was enacted in the 117th Legislature to replace the old Government Audit and Program Review Program and substituted a legislative audit of each agency on a rotating basis with an agency self-assessment.

The keystone to the Act is the agency program evaluation report, which consists of a number of components required by the statute. Essentially, the report is an agency self-assessment that the committee of jurisdiction uses as a starting point for its evaluation of the agency's effectiveness, efficiency and performance. The components that must be included in the report are: the agency's enabling state and federal legislation; program descriptions; organizational structure, position count and job classifications; compliance with federal and state health and safety laws; ten-year financial summaries; regulatory agenda; coordinated efforts with other state agencies; constituencies served by the agency; alternative delivery systems; and emerging issues for the agency.

Review Process

Pursuant to the requirements of the Act, the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development notified the board of the Committee's intent to review the board during the 121st Legislature's 2004 session. The board submitted its Program Evaluation Report on November 5, 2003.

The Business, Research and Economic Development Committee held a public hearing on January 30, 2004 and a work session on March 2, 2004 to conduct the board's review under the Act. At those meetings, the Committee reviewed the materials submitted by the board and discussed the functions and procedures of the board, with specific emphasis on whether the board has been appropriately protecting public safety and regulating its community of licensees.

Findings of Review

The Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development has reviewed the Maine Board of Optometry and voted on March 2, 2004 that the board is operating within its statutory authority.