

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

February 13, 2008

The Honorable Beth Edmonds
President of the Senate
The Honorable Glenn Cummings
Speaker of the House of Representatives
123rd 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 State and Local Government from the review and evaluation of the State Planning Office under the State Government Evaluation Act. In its review, the Committee found that the Office is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Elizabeth Schneider and Christopher Barstow.

Senator Elizabeth Schneider
Chair

Representative Christopher Barstow
Chair

cc: Martha Freeman, Director, State Planning Office
Patrick Norton, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

<p style="text-align:center">JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT</p>
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**Review of the State Planning Office under the
Government Evaluation Act
February 2008**

The Government Evaluation Act

The Government Evaluation Act provides for a system of periodic review of the efficacy and performance of state government agencies (3 MRSA §951 et seq). The keystone of the Act is the agency program evaluation report that consists of a number of components required by the statute. Essentially, the report is an agency self-assessment, which the committee of jurisdiction uses as a starting point for its evaluation of the agency's effectiveness, efficiency and performance.

Review Process

On April 23, 2007, the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government notified the State Planning Office of its intent to review the agency pursuant to the schedule established in 3 MRSA, §959. The State Planning Office submitted its program evaluation report as requested.

On January 28, 2008, the Director of the State Planning Office presented the Program Evaluation Report to the Committee. The Committee held an additional meeting on February 8 to receive additional information. The State and Local Government Committee held no further follow-up meetings.

Findings and Recommendations

The Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government has reviewed the State Planning Office and finds that it is operating within its statutory authority. The State Planning Office is charged with assisting in building a sustainable future for Maine's businesses, residents and communities. The Office advises the Governor on developing and implementing policy, assists the Legislature with information and analyses, and provides local and regional financial and technical assistance. Detailed information about the State Planning Office can be found in the Office's Program Evaluation Report, which meets the criteria set in statute (3 MRSA §956).