

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

February 15, 2012

The Honorable Kevin L. Raye
President of the Senate
The Honorable Robert W. Nutting
Speaker of the House of Representatives
125th Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Mr. 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 Capitol Planning Commission under the State Government Evaluation Act. In its review, the Committee found that the Capitol Planning Commission is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Douglas A. Thomas in cursive.

Senator Douglas A. Thomas
Senate Chair

Handwritten signature of H. David Cotta in cursive.

Representative H. David Cotta
House Chair

cc: Earle Shettleworth, Chair, Capitol Planning Commission
Marion Hylan Barr, 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 Office of the Capitol Planning Commission
under the Government Evaluation Act
February 2012**

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 May 1, 2011, the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government notified the Capitol Planning Commission of its intent to review the agency pursuant to the schedule established in 3 MRSA, §959. The Capitol Planning Commission submitted its program evaluation report as requested.

On February 1, 2012, Earle Shettleworth, Chair of the Capitol Planning Commission presented the Program Evaluation Report to the Committee. 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 Capitol Planning Commission and finds that it is operating within its statutory authority. The Commission is charged with establishing and maintaining a master plan for the orderly development of state buildings and grounds in the Capitol Area. The Commission has maintained high performance standards in the projects that it has overseen resulting in improvements in the East and West campuses. Detailed information about the Capitol Planning Commission can be found in the Commission's Program Evaluation Report, which meets the criteria set in statute (3 MRSA §956).

The nine-member commission currently includes the Director of the State Planning Office. The Chair of the Commission and the members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government are comfortable with the language in section H-1 of the recommended legislation in the report submitted pursuant to Public Law 2011, chapter 380, Part FF that would replace the Director of the State Planning Office with the Commissioner of Conservation (or designee) should the elimination of the State Planning Office go forward. To avoid creating a conflict in the law, the Committee has not introduced legislation to this end.