

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1934

H.P. 1242

House of Representatives, May 15, 2023

Resolve, to Improve the Coordination and Delivery of Planning Grants and Technical Assistance to Communities in Maine

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


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SACHS of Freeport.
Cosponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, COPELAND of Saco, GERE of Kennebunkport,
GOLEK of Harpswell, MALON of Biddeford, MATLACK of St. George, RANA of Bangor,
SARGENT of York.

1 **Sec. 1. Review of planning grants and technical assistance to communities**
2 **in this State. Resolved:** That the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future shall review
3 opportunities and structural changes in the organization of State Government and make
4 recommendations that will result in the improved coordination and implementation of
5 planning grants and technical assistance programs for communities in this State and
6 regional planning and development organizations. The review must:

7 1. Consider the municipal planning grants and technical assistance needs of
8 communities, especially the smallest and most underfunded communities, particularly
9 related to navigating complex challenges, including, but not limited to, land use planning,
10 climate resilience, natural resource protection, transportation, housing development,
11 economic development and infrastructure;

12 2. Consider state programs that currently exist to provide municipal planning grants
13 and technical assistance to communities in this State to help them address those needs, and
14 identify gaps in services and geographic coverage;

15 3. Consider mechanisms to support municipalities and regional planning and
16 development organizations in competing for ongoing competitive state and federal funding
17 opportunities;

18 4. Recommend the most effective organizational structure for state-funded programs
19 that support local government to ensure that municipalities and regional planning and
20 development organizations that support communities have the support they need in a
21 coordinated, easily accessible manner with fewer points of entry; and

22 5. Recommend the optimal organizational structure and staffing configurations and
23 include a summary of budget implications to improve coordination and implementation of
24 planning grants and technical assistance.

25 **Sec. 2. Consultation. Resolved:** That the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future
26 shall consult with diverse stakeholders, including representatives of municipalities and
27 regional planning and development organizations, to provide input on their needs and
28 recommendations, and the office shall coordinate recommendations with leadership and
29 staff from the state agencies that manage programs and grant funds across State
30 Government that support community planning and technical assistance, including the
31 Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Department of Community and
32 Economic Development, the Department of Marine Resources, the Department of
33 Transportation, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of
34 Environmental Protection, and coordinate with the Department of Administrative and
35 Financial Services to consider and develop recommendations regarding any budget and
36 staffing issues.

37 **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future shall
38 submit a report including proposed legislation and financial and staffing implications with
39 regard to its review and consultation under this resolve to the Joint Standing Committee on
40 State and Local Government and the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and
41 Financial Affairs by December 6, 2023.

1 **SUMMARY**

2 This resolve directs the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to review
3 opportunities and structural changes in the organization of State Government and make
4 recommendations that will result in the improved coordination and implementation of
5 planning grants and technical assistance programs for communities in this State and
6 regional planning and development organizations. The office must consult with diverse
7 stakeholders when conducting its review and report to the Joint Standing Committee on
8 State and Local Government and the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and
9 Financial Affairs by December 6, 2023.