

STATE OF MAINE

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Report on the **"The Initiative" to Streamline State Government**

January 8, 2008

Members: Senator Peggy Rotundo, Chair Senator John L. Martin Senator Karl Turner Representative Jeremy Fischer, Chair Representative Margaret Craven Representative Janet Mills Representative Emily Cain Representative Emily Cain Representative David Webster Representative David Webster Representative Sawin Millett Representative Patrick Flood Representative John Robinson Representative Jane Crosby Giles

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Between the First and Second Regular Sessions of the 123rd Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs (referred to as "the committee") began an effort to achieve \$10.1 million in General Fund savings to fill a "placeholder" provision of the 2008-2009 biennium budget. The effort titled "*The Initiative*" to Streamline State Government (a.k.a. "The Initiative") was prompted by the Brookings Institution report: "Charting Maine's Future: An Action Plan for Promoting Sustainable Prosperity and Quality Places" and by Senator Nutting's proposed legislation LD 1021 "Resolve, to Lower the Cost of State Government".

IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION

"The Initiative" to Streamline State Government was created by Part QQQ of the biennium budget (LD 499, also known as Public Law 2007, chapter 240). The legislation directed the committee to:

... undertake a comprehensive analysis of State Government with the goals of consolidating functions and eliminating duplication and inefficiencies in programs, in contracted personal services and in the administrative and management positions within the structure of State Government. In carrying out its duties, the committee shall investigate and identify major sources of administrative excess, redundancy, inefficiency and program overlap with other state, local or federal programs.

The legislation also required the committee to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Council. The full text of Part QQQ of Public Law 2007, chapter 240 can be found in Appendix A.

COMMITTEE PROCESS

Information Gathering

The committee decided on a three-prong approach to the information gathering stage of "The Initiative": setting savings targets for state agencies and soliciting their input, seeking public input through multiple channels, and requesting staff research and analysis.

Input from State Agencies

The standard approach in most efforts to achieve savings is to set savings targets for state agencies and solicit their ideas for savings. The committee decided to include this approach in its information gathering process.

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In late July, the committee distributed savings targets to state agencies with an aggregate savings goal of approximately \$30 million or 3 times the level of savings required by the implementing legislation. Targets were assigned for each agency based on their total General Fund appropriations excluding funding for grant and debt service expenditures. The exclusion of grant expenditures excluded school subsidies and MaineCare payments to providers, payments to the retirement system and other independent agencies. The committee encouraged agencies to work with other state agencies providing similar services to identify areas for consolidation and elimination of duplication. The committee stressed that it was seeking on-going structural changes in the cost of State Government operations.

During the meetings in late August, the Administration presented a series of proposals that, based on preliminary estimates, would achieve General Fund savings of \$11.3 million over the 2008-2009 biennium. The Administration also presented some additional savings proposals that were still under review and consideration by the Administration.

Public Input

In July, the committee began an information gathering process by establishing a web page for public input and ideas for state government savings. The web page was accessible from both the Legislature's and the Appropriations Committee home page (both pages were accessible from the State's Maine.gov page).

Numerous responses (both anonymous and self-identified) were received on the website designed for public input. The public input volume spiked after media coverage of the committee's outreach effort. All responses received prior to the deadline of Friday, September 14, 2007 were compiled by the staff of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review (OFPR) with minimal editing, sorted into ten broad categories and posted on the committee's website.

The committee staff reviewed the list of proposals and filtered them for further consideration using a criteria established by the committee during their August meeting. The criteria established for filtering was that the proposal must be "sustainable, specific and structural". The committee also requested that the staff filter out proposals that solely increased revenue or resulted in significant reductions in services. The filtered summary was posted on the website and reviewed by the committee during their September 26th meeting.

The committee decided to keep the website open beyond the deadline with the proviso that the staff of OFPR would only forward suggestions received after that date to the committee if those suggestions met the previously established filtering criteria.

Staff Research

In addition to the primary staff assistance to be provided by the Office of Fiscal and Program Review (OFPR), the implementing legislation also envisioned staff assistance from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the State Planning Office and the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA).

OFPR, at the direction of the committee, reviewed previous studies of state government operations and reviewed recent proposed legislation that was not enacted but might have resulted in administrative savings. No separate listing of these ideas was created because the proposals that were generated by this review were sufficiently covered by ideas and proposals submitted by the public.

OPEGA, at the direction of the Government Oversight Committee, was concurrently conducting a major review of "State Administration – Staffing." Under a memorandum of agreement entered into on September 17, 2007, OPEGA agreed to share its preliminary analyses developed during this review with the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. The preliminary results were presented at the October 18th meeting.

Committee Review

During their meeting on September 27th, the committee assigned rankings (1st, 2nd or 3rd Tier) to the thirty-six proposals submitted by the state agencies and the filtered list of proposals submitted by the public. The items were designated as Tier-1 if the committee, by consensus, was interested in the idea and felt that the proposal should be analyzed by staff and drafted in bill form. Proposals were designated as Tier-2 if the committee was interested in pursuing the idea but lacked sufficient information to designate it as Tier-1 or dismiss it outright. Items were placed in the Tier-3 if the committee did not wish to pursue the idea any further. Note all votes were preliminary and placement in Tier-1 during the September meeting did not constitute a final acceptance of the proposal for inclusion in the bill. The filtered list of proposals and the tier ranking was posted on the committee website.

On September 26th, the committee sent a letter to the Chairs of the policy committees inviting them to comment on any of the savings ideas that were being considered. Though the timing of the policy committee meetings during the interim made it difficult for some of the committees to respond to this request by the requested deadline of October 16th, eight policy committees submitted responses by the middle of November.

During October's meetings, the committee held <u>provisional</u> votes on fifty-four of the 115 tier-1 and tier-2 proposals. Thirty-two proposals were retained for further consideration. In November, the committee <u>provisionally</u> voted in an additional ten proposals and voted out a proposal previously voted in. The forty-one proposals provisionally voted in through November's meeting represented \$10.2 million in savings for the 2008-2009 biennium. In addition, there were four proposals that were voted in with no associated savings but either embodied the spirit of the streamlining by either increasing efficiencies

for the agencies involved or the public they serve. The committee expressed the desire that this report inform the readers that the public proposals voted out during October and November's meetings were not, necessarily, voted out because they were not good ideas. Rather, many proposals were voted out because either the ideas were already being implemented by the agencies named, would not result in savings to the General Fund or seemed to be based on a misunderstanding of current policies or practices.

Prior to December's meeting, the estimated savings on two agency proposals previously voted in was reduced by a combined total of just over \$500,000. The committee, having thought they exceeded the goal of \$10.1 million in savings, was required to find an additional \$420,000. During December's meeting, the committee voted in a previously tabled proposal, voted in a committee member's proposal which was a scaled down version of an agency proposal previously voted out and voted in two original items proposed by committee members. The total savings for these four proposals is \$430,000. The committee exceeded its target of recommended savings for the 2008-2009 biennium by \$9,790. The entire list of proposals previously voted in was accepted by the committee by a vote of 9-2.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The list of all Tier-1 and Tier-2 proposals, the estimated savings to the General Fund and the results of the committee vote (if taken) are shown in Appendix B.

Legislation to implement "*The Initiative*" to Streamline State Government will be included in the Governor's "Supplemental Budget" which is expected to be submitted to the Legislature in January, 2008.

The committee will review the OPEGA report on state administration staffing (due to be issued in the first quarter of 2008) and any resulting analysis by the Office of Fiscal and Program Review. They will include their recommendations in response to the report and analysis in the next Supplemental Budget bill following that review.

Appendix A

Implementing Legislation

Report on the The "Initiative" to Streamline State Government

January 8, 2008

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

"The Initiative" to Streamline State Government

LD 499

PART QQQ

Sec. QQQ-1. Initiative established. The Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, referred to in this Part as "the committee," shall serve as the steering committee to streamline State Government, referred to in this Part as "the initiative."

Sec. QQQ-2. Convening of committee. The committee shall convene to begin the initiative no later than August 1, 2007.

Sec. QQQ-3. Duties. The committee, as part of the initiative, shall undertake a comprehensive analysis of State Government with the goals of consolidating functions and eliminating duplication and inefficiencies in programs, in contracted personal services and in the administrative and management positions within the structure of State Government. In carrying out its duties, the committee shall investigate and identify major sources of administrative excess, redundancy, inefficiency and program overlap with other state, local or federal programs. In its report pursuant to section 6, the committee shall identify those administrative and management positions, including positions in the unclassified service and major policy-influencing positions as set out in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 71, and in contracted personal services that should be reduced, eliminated or consolidated to deliver the optimum services in the most cost-effective manner. The initiative must achieve a targeted spending reduction of a minimum of \$10,100,000 during the 2008-2009 biennium. The committee may establish subcommittees and draw on experts inside and outside of State Government.

Sec. QQQ-4. Staff assistance. The Office of Fiscal and Program Review shall staff the committee. The committee may request additional staff assistance from the Legislative Council. The committee may request that the Legislative Council contract for additional staff to direct the initiative and hire expert staff as it determines necessary within its budgeted resources. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services; the Executive Department, State Planning Office; and the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability may also provide assistance to the committee.

Sec. QQQ-5. Compensation. Members of the committee are entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses related to their attendance at authorized meetings of the committee.

Sec. QQQ-6. Report. The committee shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Council no later than January 8, 2008. The committee is authorized to submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd

Legislature. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services may implement those measures identified by the committee to reach the spending reduction target.

Sec. QQQ-7. Commissioner actions. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services may implement those measures identified by the committee to reach the spending reduction target of \$10,100,000. If the committee fails to identify at least \$10,100,000 in savings through legislation submitted to and enacted by the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature, the commissioner shall distribute the undistributed savings through the process of curtailing allotments established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1667. The State Budget Officer shall determine amounts by financial order upon approval of the Governor.

Sec. QQQ-8. Committee budget. The chairs of the committee, with assistance from the committee staff and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council, shall administer the committee's budget approved by the Legislative Council. The committee may not incur expenses that would result in the committee's exceeding its approved budget. Upon request from the committee, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly provide the committee chairs and staff with a status report on the committee budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available funds.

Sec. QQQ-9. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Departments and agencies - statewide 0016

Initiative: Deappropriates savings to be achieved through the initiative to streamline State Government. If sufficient savings are not identified through legislation submitted to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature, the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services shall distribute the undistributed savings through the process of curtailing allotments established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1667. The State Budget Officer shall determine the amounts in this section that apply against each General Fund account and shall transfer those amounts by financial order upon the approval of the Governor. The transferred amounts are considered adjustments to appropriations in fiscal year 2008-09.

GENERAL FUND	2007-08	2008-09	
Unallocated	<u>\$0</u>	(\$10,100,000)	
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$10,100,000)	
ADMINISTRATIVE AND F SERVICES, DEPARTMENT			
DEPARTMENT TOTALS		2007-08	2008-09
GENERAL FUND		<u>\$0</u>	(<u>\$10,100,000</u>)
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - A	LL FUNDS	5 \$0	(\$10,100,000)

LEGISLATURE

Legislature 0081

Initiative: Provides funds for the expenses of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs associated with the initiative to streamline State Government, including contracting for additional staff and experts and contracted services.

GENERAL FUND	2007-08	2008	-09
All Other	<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$50,000	\$0	
LEGISLATURE DEPARTMENT TOTALS		200	7-08 2008-09
GENERAL FUND DEPARTMENT TOTAL SECTION TOTALS			<u>,000</u> <u>\$0</u> ,000 \$0 2008-09
GENERAL FUND		<u>0,000</u>	(\$10,100,000)
SECTION TOTAL - ALL F		0,000	(\$10,100,000)

Appendix B

List of Proposals

Report on the The "Initiative" to Streamline State Government

January 8, 2008

		Description of Proposal	TIER #	Headcount?	GF Est Svgs SFY08	GF Est Svgs SFY09	GF Est Svgs SFY10	GF Est Svgs SFY11	Vote Status - All Votes Preliminary
Admi		Proposals Expand Service Center to Support GF Programs of the Secretary of State				and the second second second second second	the second s	670.270	Voted Out - 10/18 7-5
1 	ł	Reduce Operational Expenditures by the Maine State Lottery	2	-1	£200.000	\$78,370	\$78,370	-	Voted Utt - 10/18 /-5
د 	1	Standardize Lottery Agent Commissions	2		\$300,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000 \$1,000,000	Voted In 7-3 modified
D			2			\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000		amount 11/15
4	L	Reduce Risk Management Rates	1		\$168,000	\$168,000	\$168,000		Voted In - 10/17
5	DAFS	Execute Ground-lease for Stone Building	2		•	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	Voted In - 10/17 8-1
5	DAFS	Reorganize the Bureau of Human Resources	1	-1		\$59,161	\$59,161	\$59,161	Voted In - 10/17
7	DAFS	Co-locate former BOER staff with the Bureau of Human Resources	1			\$39,062	\$49,062	\$49,062	Voted In - 10/17
8	DAFS	Reorganize the Bureau of the Budget	1	-1		\$54,329	\$54,329	\$54,329	Voted In - 10/17
9	DAFS	Eliminate Audio-Visual Operation	2	-2		\$40,644	\$40,644	\$40,644	Voted In - 10/17
10	DAFS	Reorganize Custodial Staff	1	-1		\$19,538	\$19,538	\$19,538	Voted In - 10/17
11	DAFS	Eliminate Multiple Telephone Lines	1			\$27,360	\$27,360	\$27,360	Voted In - 10/17
12	DAFS	Shift IT Training Funds to Acquire Critical Skills	1			\$104,500	\$104,500	\$104,500	Voted In - 10/17
13	DAFS	Consolidate Printing and Postal Units at BGS and OIT	1	-1		\$75,816	\$75,816	\$75,816	Voted In - 10/17
14	DAFS	Increase Automation of Pay Issuance	1			\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	Voted In - 10/17
15	CON	Consolidate Aircraft Maintenance and Flight Scheduling	2			\$79,810	\$79,810	\$79,810	Voted In - 10/18
16	DECD	Reorganize Maine Small Business Development Centers	2	0		\$155,156	\$155,156	\$155,156	Voted In 10-0 11/15
17	EDU	Implement Efficiencies in Education Services to the Unorganized Territories	2			\$300,000	\$0	\$0	Voted In - 10/17
18	EDU	Eliminate Participation in the Education Commission of the States	2			\$60,500	\$63,192	· \$66,004	Voted In - 10/17
19	ENV	Consolidate IT Costs under Indirect Cost Allocation Plan	1			\$141,199	\$141,199	\$141,199	Voted In - 10/18
20	SPO	Reorganize Land Use Planning Staff	1	-1		\$72,106	\$72,106	\$72,106	Voted In - 10/18
21	DHHS	Align Reimbursement for ACT and TCM with Services Delivered	2			\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	Voted In - 10/18
22	DHHS	Reduce Redundant Assessments in Katie Beckett Program	1			\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000	Voted In - 10/18
23	DHHS	Increase Placement of Children in DHHS Custody into Family Settings	2			\$1,242,035	\$1,242,035	\$1,242,035	Voted In - 10/18
24	DHHS	Implement Competitive Bidding for Therapeutic Foster Care	2			\$1,776,179	\$1,776,179	\$1,776,179	Voted In - 10/18
25	DHHS	Align Case Management Services for Children	1			\$487,950	\$487,950	\$487,950	Voted In - 10/18
26	DHHS	Consolidate Community Integration Case Management Servcies	2			\$146,100	\$292,200	\$292,200	Voted In 10-0 11/16
!7	DHHS	Increase Emphasis on Community-Integrated Employment	2	i		\$200,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	Voted In as amended 10-1 11/16
28	IFW	Manage Public Information Activities	1			\$50,610	\$63,610	\$63,610	Voted Out - 10/18 8-1
:9	IFW	Produce "Any Deer" and "Moose" Permit Lotteries Online	2	-1		\$174,900	\$174,900	\$174,900	Voted In 7-3 11/15
0	IFW	Enhance Administrative Efficiencies related to High Volume Licensing Agents	1			\$72,000	\$72,000	\$72,000	Voted In - 10/18
1	IFW	Produce Transportation Tags for "Any Deer" Permits Online	2			\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	Voted Out 5-4 11/15
2	IFW	Publish Laws/Rules and Reports Online	2			\$206,800	\$206,800	\$206,800	Voted Out 8-1 11/15

Line	DEPT	Description of Proposal	TIER #	Chg in Headcount?	GF Est Svgs SFY08	GF Est Svgs SFY09	GF Est Svgs SFY10		Vote Status - All Votes Preliminary
33	LAB	Consolidate Career Centers	2			\$106,867	\$106,867	\$106,867	Voted In - 10/17 5-4
34	TRE	Reorganize Office of the Treasurer	1	-1	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	Voted In - 10/18
35	TRE	Migrate TAMI functions to AdvantageME (savings from Office of State Controller)	1		\$20,000	\$25,500	\$25,500	\$25,500	Voted In - 10/18
36	TRE	Implement New Float Distribution Policy	2			\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	Voted In - 10/18
Publi	e Input								
37	DAFS	Merge the financial, personnel and other administrative support functions for the Constitutional Officers into a new Constitutional Officers services center. Options as whether it is freestanding, included with other DAFS service centers or included in Legislative offices?	1						Voted Out - 10/18 7-4
38	MEPERS	Allow all new state employees (educators too) to enroll in Social Security.	1					-	Voted Out - 10/17 8-2
39	MEPERS	Few companies provide pensions in this day of 401Ks. The State should discontinue the pension program and set up 401Ks.	1						Voted Out - 10/17 8-2
40	MEPERS	The State's cost for state employee basic group life insurance was increased this year from 14 cents per \$1000 to 26 cents per \$1000. This was done after an internal actuarial review by the Retirement Board. This increase in premiums will cost the General Fund between \$3-\$10 million over the biennium, depending on what class of employee you include in the analysis. My recommendation is to require the Maine State Retirement board to solicit competitive bids from group life insurance providers for basic life insurance coverage. The large increase implemented by the board is inconsistent with the national downward trend in premiums in the group life insurance to federal employees for 15 cents per \$1000.	1		:				Voted Out 9-1 11/15
41		Consolidate Child Support Enforcement Management with Eligibility Management. They are all part of Integrated Access and Support, why not have one person to report to? I believe there are 3 or 4 of these positions.	1						Voted Out 9-0 11/16
42		MaineCare's Katie Beckett waiver. Eligibility determination is based on child's disability, not family's income. Once a child is determined to be eligible, an annual assessment required to determine continued eligibility. This assessment consists of a nurse from a contracted agency meeting with the child and parent to ask the same questions year after year. The child must be present to prove he/she exists. The paper work is then given to a physician to review and make the final determination. This is a costly process. For children with certain medical and disabling conditions, have them undergo a face to face assessment every three years instead of every year. During the "off" years, have the child's physician complete paperwork for MaineCare. The parents would still have to complete income paperwork in case their situation has changed and the child is eligible for regular MaineCare. Vermont made this change in their Katie Beckett program a few years back.	1						Voted Out 9-0 11/16

Line	DEPT	Description of Proposal	TIER #	Chg in Headcount?	GF Est Svgs SFY08	GF Est Svgs SFY09	GF Est Svgs SFY10	GF Est Svgs SFY11	Vote Status - All Votes Preliminary
				meadeount.	54 100	51 102	54 110	54 4 44	, remininary
43	DHHS	DHHS, Licensing and Regulatory Services is responsible for inspecting Nursing Homes and Hospitals. For Nursing Homes, there are three teams: Augusta, Bangor, and Portland. For the Hospitals, there is ONE team of nurses. In the past, one team member, the Health Facilities Specialist, was "loaned" out to the Hospital team from the Augusta office. That person was responsible for the Augusta region nursing homes and ALL of the hospitals in the state. Recently, the hospital team has acquired a "contract" Health Facilities Specialist, who is paid a higher rate, plus mileage, to survey the hospitals. Each of the three Facilities Specialists (Bangor, Augusta and Portland) should be able to split the hospitals the same way they do the Nursing Homes. You would not have to reimburse for hotels and meals and mileage would be reduced since most of the facilities are within 50 miles of the three district offices. Currently, when the nursing home surveyors are out, Portland has no overnight stays due to travel distance, Augusta has two, and Bangor has approximately five	1			\$16,078	\$16,078	\$16,078	Voted In 9-0 11/16
44	DAFS	Hybrids cost too much vs. fuel savings. Buy small 4 cyl cars (about half cost of Hybrids) AND run them until the engines or transmissions go - not sell them on a time cycle. You don't get enough re-sale value on the time cycle system vs. running them longer until a major breakdown. Cars will now hold up for close to 200,000 miles, so selling them at around 100,000 isn't economical. Look at CMP's new bill stuffer - they are bragging about buying small cars instead of pickups for meter readers - but they bought Focuses not Hybrids. Also, DOT should move trucks around from low usage camps to high ones, and vice versa, to even out mileage on them. Now on the time cycle sale system some of their trucks being sold only have about 100,000 miles while others have 200,000+. The same thing as above goes for running them until a failure happens. If there's worry over being "caught short" when a failure happens the savings will easily pay to keep a few new ones in reserve. Also, over time the people in charge of vehicles will know when to anticipate the "big one" happening to a vehicle and replace them just in time.	1						Voted Out - 10/18 9-1
45	DAFS	Considering the cost of operations and energy, it would seem reasonable to research the cost savings for some departments - in moving to four day work weeks, 10 hour days, etc. The savings in heating costs and travel costs would be worth the consideration. The public would have to adjust with a worthwhile tax dollar savings.	1						Voted Out - 10/18 9-1
46	DAFS	Set all thermostats at 65 degrees in the winter and 78 degrees in the summer.	1						Voted Out - 10/18 9-1
47	DAFS	Reduce the heat in government offices by 2 degrees.	1						Voted Out - 10/18 9-1
48	DAFS	Shut off the lights in all state office buildings after hours. 1 live in Augusta and see the lights on every day/every night in the Burton Cross Building for example. Shutting off these lights and the other state office building's lights would save money and it would help to save a little piece of the environment (less carbon leeching into the air, less light bulb replacement, etc).	1						Voted Out - 10/18 9-1
49	DAFS	Reduce electricity use, by turning off lights on State buildings at night, and unplugging and turning off equipment at night, or when not in use. Recently, there was a news piece about companies in Japan doing this. This would set an example for the citizens of Maine, would reduce the "carbon footprint", save money and reduce light pollution.	1						Voted Out - 10/18 9-1

Line	DEPT	Description of Proposal	TIER #	Chg in Headcount?	GF Est Svgs SFY08	GF Est Svgs SFY09	GF Est Svgs SFY10	GF Est Svgs SFY11	Vote Status - All Votes Preliminary
50	DAFS	Please eliminate paying the premium for "Green" electrical power. This is a waste of taxpayer's money and is a windfall to non-utility generators that operate hydro and biomass generating plants. I understand that this may have been a legislative initiative. The non-fossil fuel electrical generators were built or purchased based on market rates, and the owners will do just fine with their investments with out taxpayer handouts. Electricity is a very basic commodity. The department involved is purchasing.	1						Voted Out - 10/18 9-1
51	DAFS	The State of Maine should begin using nitrogen instead of air in the tires of all state vehicles. If the air in the tires of State vehicles was replaced with nitrogen, a significant amount of money would be saved. Nitrogen inflated tires give better gas mileage and create less wear on tires. It is also safer for the environment and for the public because properly inflated tires allow better control of the vehicle. I have experienced much improved gas mileage and tire wear on my personal vehicles. There is much more information on Nitrogen at http://www.getnitrogen.org/ .	1						Voted Out - 10/18 9-1
52	DAFS	Every government building should have solar panels							Voted Out - 10/18 9-1
53	DAFS	Replace every light switch with a motion activated switch, and every state building should use compact fluorescent or other low energy bulbs, and future buildings should be designed so as to maximize the usage of sunlight.	1						Voted Out - 10/18 9-1
54	DECD	OPEGA has indicated Maine Government has forty different economic development programs. Let's force rank these 40 programs using a cost/benefit matrix and eliminate those without clear benefit to job creation. As a target, seek to eliminate the bottom ten programs.	1				,		Voted Out 12-0 11/15
55	JUD	As an attorney, I've noticed that the county courthouses have an 8:30am docket call and an 8:31am docket call. This is silly. If I have a client on the 8:31am list, I have to be in court for the earlier docket call so as not to disrupt the court, even though the later list won't be called before 9 or 9:30am. More often than not, the judges take a recess after calling the docket and I end up waiting until 10am or later. It would seem to me that with so much money being spent on court-appointed attorneys, such as myself, waiting around at the taxpayers' expense could be managed more effectively simply by making the 8:31am list a 10am list. The numbers may not add up to millions of dollars immediately, but if I can count a dozen attorneys waiting for 2 hours once a week that adds up to I,200 per week for just one court house. That's approximately sixty-thousand dollars per year in wasted money.	1			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			Voted Out - 10/17
56	LAB	Make the Department of Labor account for its penalty and interest money deposited in the Special Administrative Expense Fund. The money is spent without public accountability, and is "off budget". This money could be used to fund sorely needed office positions instead of being spent on retreats and west coast seminars.	1						Voted Out - 10/17 7-3
57	DAFS	Avoid interest charges by paying bills timely. Specifically, veterinary bills submitted by DIF&W K-9 handlers usually incur interest charges. Many vendors will not bill IF&W any more because payment is so slow. As positions are cut to save money, the amount of time to process requests gets longer and longer.	1						Voted Out - 10/18

Line	DEPT	Description of Proposal	TIER #	Chg in Headcount?	GF Est Svgs SFY08	GF Est Svgs SFY09	GF Est Svgs SFY10	GF Est Svgs SFY11	Vote Status - All Votes Preliminary
58	DPS	Liquor licensing renewals, as they are currently done, are time consuming and wasteful. Every year a four page application must be completed, regardless of whether any changes have occurred or not. Every year it requires diagrams of the building and sales figures which are already available. Every year it requires ownership data and every year the licensee must pay for public notices in the paper. This goes to the town and consumes the time of the Town Clerks, and the governing authority, and a hearing is held. Then it's back to the licensee and then back to the state. It could be done much more efficiently. Have a renewal that says if nothing has changed in ownership to the physical layout of the facility then the licensee can mail it back in with their signature attesting to that, along with the appropriate fee for the license with a copy to the town. If a town objects they can notify the State within 30 days. You would save time and	1						Voted In - 10/18
		money. (Department of Public Safety indicated support for this change.)							
59	DAFS	Rather than having many meetings in Augusta, use teleconferencing as much as possible. Time and tax money spent in going to and returning from many meetings is wasted. Have special meetings that may last for more than a day scheduled for University of Maine sites rather than expensive places like the Samoset, so that taxpayers' dollars will be doing double duty.	1						Tabled - 10/18
60	DAFS	Every time a new Commissioner or department head is hired the state prints out fancy new letterhead with the new person's name prominently featured. This is nothing more than an ego boost which costs the state huge printing bills, not to mention the wasted money on the old letterhead which is then discarded. This practice should stop. Only the Department should be listed on letterhead and not the new person's names and titles. Such superfluous egotistical actions should stop.	1						Voted Out - 10/18 8-2
61	DAFS	DAFS should create on-line fill-in forms that can be used by all state agencies for common state activities such as travel, purchasing, HR forms etc. Currently, all departments have to create their own forms; this is extremely redundant and a waste of state employees' time.	1						Voted In - 10/18
62	DAFS	When DAFS issues reimbursement (travel) to employees (those who already have direct deposit with their paycheck), the reimbursement check should be direct deposited. In fact, the state should require direct deposit for all employees and stop issuing the paper checks (information is available through TAMS) Savings - Cost of paper check, cost of printing paper check, cost of envelope, cost of postage. I realize this is small - but we need to start somewhere.	1		• .				Voted In - 10/18
63	DAFS	Set a new standard for mailing checks to community providers and others who receive money from the state. Too many checks go out in too many envelopes for less than the cost of the printing plus the stamp plus the envelope plus the clerical costs. We can save money here by setting some sort of standard for printing and mailing checks - none should go out for less than \$25 without approval of the State Treasurer. (AFA Committee encouraged a higher standard than the current \$5 standard.)	1						Voted In - 10/18
64	IFW	IF&W - If someone registers online through MOSES for a hunting and/or fishing license- IF&W should use email for correspondence to that licensed person. Instead they use both - email AND snail mail for surveys, reminders, etc. Same as above - saving on paper costs, postage, time stuffing the envelope, etc. PR\AFACMTE\123rd\The Initiative\List of Proposals as of 12-13-07, List of 1's and 2's	I						Voted In 11-1 Statement of legislative intent only

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Line	DEPT	Description of Proposal	TIER #	Chg in Headcount?	GF Est Svgs SFY08	GF Est Svgs SFY09	GF Est Svgs SFY10	GF Est Svgs SFY11	Vote Status - All Votes Preliminary
65	DAFS	Put the operation of all or part the State of Maine telephone system (TELCO) out to bid to the private sector. Let TELCO bid for the work. Even if there was no cost difference between what a Verizon or AT&T could provide, we could benefit from their billing system. The State of Maine needs a new billing system for telephone services. There are always greater needs for scarce resources so the billing system gets patched and used another year.	1						Voted Out - 10/18
66		Multiple entries suggesting several difference combinations of mergers of the natural resources agencies the Departments of Conservation, IF&W, Environmental Protection, Marine Resources and Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources Forestry and the State Planning Office.	2				•		
67	DECD PRS	Merge the Departments of Community & Economic Development with the Department of Professional & Financial Regulation.	2						
68	DAFS PRS ATT	Merge DPFR under DAFS but place all consumer protection functions in the AG's office.	2						-
69	CUL	Create a "Maine Cultural Commission" and combine the Maine Arts Commission, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Maine Historical Society, Maine Humanities Council, Maine State Museum and the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation.	2						
70	HRC	Move the Disability Rights Center and Pine Tree Legal Assistance to the Maine Human Rights Commission.	2						
71	CON	Elimination of the Maine Geological Survey. That bureau duplicates the work of the Federal agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, and perforce fills no useful niche in State government.	2		·				Voted Out 11-0 11/15
72	DHHS	Combine the food inspection services of DHHS and the Department of Agriculture under one Agency.	2			\$0	\$0	\$0	Voted In as amended by agency response 8-3 11/16 Unallocated Language
73	DPS	Combine the states law enforcement. For example the state police can absorb the marine patrol, fire marshals, game wardens, forest rangers and others into one agency. This should only be done for the state level agencies. New Jersey did it for some of their agencies and other states too.	2						Voted Out 9-3 11/15
74		Eliminate State Nuclear Safety Advisor - Salary more than \$75,000 per year, total cost with benefits more than \$100,000. Maine has no nuclear facilities whatsoever, except for the low-level waste site in Wiscasset.	2						Voted Out 11-0 11/15
75		Outsource the Single State Audit and downsize the State Audit staff (see LD in the first session of the 123rd).	2						Voted Out 9-2 11/15
76	DAFS	Eliminate the public affairs and legislative liaisons at the department level.	2						
77	DAFS	Eliminating all "public relations" positions in the executive departments and give the Governor's office an extra position or two to do the PR work for the departments.	2						
78	DAFS	Consolidate all HR Back office functions to a central location.	2						Voted Out 8-0 11/15
79	DAFS	Implement a hiring freeze.	2						Voted Out 7-1 11/15

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80	DAFS	Several years ago the state hired 2 people, at \$50,000 each plus travel expenses, to verify that the Department of Purchases was not buying from "sweat-shops". It would have been much less expensive to have just told the buyers "don't buy from sweat-shops".	2						Voted Out 8-0 11/15
81	DPS	Eliminate the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission.	2						Voted Out 11-1 11/15
82	LAB	The Maine Department of Labor located at 45 Commerce Drive in Augusta has seen a reduction in the work force (mostly clerks) by approximately 50% over the last few years, yet the management levels remain virtually the same. A few months ago, the Benefits Section and the Tax Section were combined as a cost saving measure and because of the diminishing amount of clerical workers. The amazing thing is that each Section had a highly paid Director. When the two Sections were combined BOTH Directors were kept. They are now called CO- DIRECTORS.	2						Voted Out - 10/17 6-4
83	DAFS	If all state employees were asked to contribute at some % towards the cost of their health insurance. (Numerous suggestions with varying percentages.)	2			\$892,692	\$937,326	\$984,192	Amendment 2% Contrib Voted Out 6-5 11/16
84	MEPERS	Offer early retirement to state employees who will be 55 years within a year of January 1, 2008, as though they were 62. (Adjust the age equivalent from 62 to a younger age to adjust how many employees would likely take the early retirement.) This change will immediately reduce the headcount, payroll and benefits payable by the State of Maine.							Voted Out 10-0 11/15
85	MEPERS	Financing the unfunded liability with the Maine State Retirement System via a bond issue rather than the current indebtedness to MSRS would save about \$2 million a year.	2			-			Voted Out 10-0 11/15
86	DHHS	Everyone who receives an SSI check also qualifies for a Food Stamps EBT Card. There is a section on the EBT card for a cash benefit as well as a food stamp benefit. Everyone that receives an SSI check also receives a \$10.00 state supplemental check. This state paper check can be eliminated as mailing fees by putting the state supplemental check on the cash section of the EBT card. The state DHHS oversees both programs: the supplemental \$10 check and the EBT card.	2						Voted Out 11-0 11/16
87	DHHS	Reimburse hospitals for direct patient care costs only to save millions of \$'s. The State should reimburse hospitals only for the salaries and benefits of the providers/care givers that are assigned to the patient, and the value of any medicines or other medical/ therapeutic materials used in the care of the patient. This should include also the percentage of time the nursing aids, housekeeping, etc. spend per day per patient. In other words, Mainecare should not be used to pay administrative costs. Alternatively, some small overhead could be charged (say no more than 10% of total costs). Furthermore, the state should audit any hospitals receiving state aid for medical services, and the % of every dollar going to direct patient care vs. administrative costs should be published each year. Incentives should be provided to those entities that reduce their administrative costs.	2						Voted Out 10-0 11/16
88	DHHS	Eliminate the 3 Regional Managers. If you asked any one of them I do not believe you would get consensus on what their job really is.	2						Voted Out 9-1 11/16
89	DHHS	Close the Levinson Center in the Bangor area and relocate the patients to Treats Falls, a private facility.	2						Voted Out 10-0 11/16
90	DHHS	Close the Dorothea Dix Center and relocate patients to private facilities or other public facilities	2		-				Voted Out 11-0 11/16

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91	DHHS	Privatize the management and service delivery of Riverview in Augusta. Benchmark ourselves against NH for the number of facilities and beds we have to gauge the right sizing of our in state mental health facilities.	2						Voted Out 10-1 11/16
92	DHHS	When DHHS comes to do Daycare annual licensing inspections, they send 2 workers not just one. The second one they send comes all the way down from the county (mileage and hotel). It actually takes longer for 2 people to do the inspection than it took when it was just one. Seems like an incredible waste of manpower. If they are that overstaffed to afford to double up, I'd say let's eliminate some positions to save money on payroll, mileage and hotel expenses.	2						Voted Out 11-0 11/16
93	DHHS	MaineCare recipients should pay a co-pay. The rest of us have to. This would cut down on ambulance rides to the emergency room for a sore throat.	2						Voted Out 11-0 11/16
94	DHHS	Insurance companies require pre-authorization before they will pay claims but not Maine Care. The subject of double billing needs to be looked into. I have seen people go to provider after provider receiving services from all of them at the same time even though regulations in place forbid it. A simple pre authorization for services could immediately identify who is bilking the system and save the state millions of dollars a year.	2						Voted Out 9-1 11/16
95	EDU	The Department of Education would realize a very large cost savings by setting up a purchase department for all school districts. If the State purchased oil, buses, gas, electricity rates, laptops, paper, copiers, etc., for every school in the state, the savings would be huge and thereby decrease each individual school district's current budget for said items.	2						Voted Out 11-1 11/15
96	UMS/ MCCS	Merge the MCCS and the UMS saving approximately \$2.5M in administrative costs. They not only would save money but they also could achieve a seamless system where students would not have to deal with two administrative structures when wanting to transfer from one system to the other. As a concerned taxpayer, I think it is time that the State look at the results of both systems in terms of retention rates and not only look at the admission numbers but the students who actually stay beyond one semester.	2						
97	MAT	It is time to privatize Maine Maritime.	2						Voted Out 12-0 11/15
98	DPS	Police doing road construction detail on overtime or straight time. Have the contractors supply their own road watch instead at a lower rate	2			-			Voted Out 12-0 11/15
99	PRT	Assign responsibility to OPEGA to report any duplicative services of state- sanctioned Economic Development entities and respective costs of those, if any, duplicative services within State Government by January 2009.	2						
	LAB	Model Maine's Unemployment Compensation system after a state like New Hampshire. Simplify regulations so they are easily understandable to the average person. Currently, state employees must interpret rules and monitor each individual receiving weekly Unemployment Benefits to ensure that compliance. Even a minor deviation from regulations can result in an interruption or suspension of weekly Unemployment Benefits. The amount of state workers needed to staff and maintain a bureaucracy of this size can be trimmed by simply allowing claimants to receive the maximum Weekly Benefits to which they are entitled.	2						Voted Out - 10/17

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101	LAB	Eliminate Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIB's). These boards function as little more than "middle men" obtaining and transmitting information to and from Maine Career Centers and the Department of Labor. Career Centers can provide the required information directly to the Department of Labor and vice versa. Any oversight or administration mandated by the Workforce Investment Act can be provided solely by the Maine Jobs Council and/or Department of Labor. LWIB's are an unnecessary layer of administration with administrative budgets out of proportion to the work they perform.	2						Voted Out - 10/17 7-3
102	DHHS	LIHEAP Program - why must one apply for LIHEAP in order to keep or increase their food stamps? One has to apply for LIHEAP in order to keep food stamps in certain circumstances. She gets \$5 a month when she doesn't even have a utility bills, as they are all included with her rent which is public housing. I am not sure how many thousands of individuals receive this same benefit, but the actual money going to people that do not have electric bills combined with the administrative expense of processing these claims I am sure could save thousands and thousands of dollars.	2						Voted Out 11-0 11/16
103	DAFS	Monitor who get cell phones. Is it necessary for those who do not travel? Monitor who gets Secure ID's - do clericals need a Secure ID?	2				· ·		Voted Out 7-0 11/16
104	DPS	End unnecessary overtime for state employees. Instead of using the police dept. at construction areas and spending time sitting at turn around on highways. Make a sign that looks like a patrol car with flashing blue lights on the top and add a radar device that starts the lights flashing if a vehicle is going faster than you would like. The results will be the same. And eliminating that overtime could save a bundle. While on the subject of traffic, you could use those fake deer on the roads posted with the warning signs of that type of animal. Why just store them until hunting season?	2						Voted Out 11-0 11/15
105	DAFS	Have all purchasing of items consolidated and executed by one department for government and schools.	2			<u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>			Voted Out 8-0 11/15
106	DAFS	Standardization is always more efficient and helps reduce costs. This may be as small as standardizing all the printers so that bulk buying of printer cartridges is less expensive. It may also be representation based on population and not county lines. Just like the school consolidation was controversial so will be changing representation. But having each person share the same amount of influence and representation is equality and fairly spread to all.	2						Voted Out 9-0 11/15
107	MAR	Harbor patrol, marine patrol, coast guard, why do we need 3 agencies that do the same thing in one river?	2						
108	DAFS	Consolidate the oversight of state gamingincluding eliminating "boards and commissions" that oversee this area, and relying on staff with expertise to make such licensing decisionsas is done in other areas of state government. (This includes the lotteryand move liquor to the state police, who is already enforcing it.)	2	-1		\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	Voted In 6-5 as proposed in agency response 11/16

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109	DHHS	Every other insuring entity in the health industry including Medicare uses CPT codes for billing and reimbursement. MaineCare has Z codes which are not compatible with the CPT codes which are almost universal. Why not use the CPT codes with which everyone else is familiar? This would probably allow more integration capabilities in the databases in the healthcare industry, provide continuity across the board for health professionals billing the State under MaineCare, and allow medical billing personnel to carry their skills into State employment without having to reeducate themselves to a whole new system of coding.	2 .			•			Voted Out 11-0 11/16
110	DAFS	Maine should implement telecommuting positions for as many workers as possible. Not only will this save the state money by eliminating the cost for office space as well as all the utilities and supplies that go with it, but it would also reduce the wear on roads from commuters, and of course reduces green house emissions. Offering telecommuting would also open up jobs to residents living outside the Augusta area.	2						Voted Out 9-0 11/15
111	DPS	In this day and age there is no reason why we have both a Sheriff's Department and a State Trooper branch. There is now repetition of all personnel and services, for no other reason than 'territorial issues' which is just ludicrous.	2						Voted Out 9-2 11/15
112	DAFS	I am regularly anazed by the amount of advertising that is sponsored by various state agencies. Whether it is the DOT telling me to slow down in construction zones, H&HS talking about how tobacco companies are still out to get me, the state police saying we should watch out for motorcycles, or the department of agriculture opining that we should buy local, it seems state government must be one of the larger advertisers, especially on TV. I'm sure the total costs are rather hidden, being spread among numerous agencies, but the number in total must be huge. While each of these campaigns has individual merits, this just doesn't seem to be appropriate spending given our need to reduce the cost of government. I, for one, would prefer not to have my tax dollars spent this way.	2			\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	Voted In 12-0 12/13/07
113	SEC	The State archiving system is unnecessarily cumbersome and expensive. First, the State saves the actual paper files rather than scanning them electronically or transferring them to microfiche and so there always seems to be a space issue (with its associated cost). Two, because every agency saves its files (and pays for it), there are often multiple copies of documents in archives. For example, in child protective and support enforcement cases, the court saves its file, DHHS saves its file, and the AG's Office saves its file.	2	· · ·					Voted Out 10-0 11/15
114	DAFS	Why are state employment ads in the newspaper so large and so detailed? Why can it not simply be a notice of available positions with an address to web site for more detailed information? DHS is infamous for these ads as it the University of Maine System. Here the state is advocating technology and it a significant sum of money on these ads.	2			\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	Voted In 7-3 Proposal by Agency in Response 11/15

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115	DAFS	We need to start using technology for meetings. It is amazing to me that I have been on the EMHS board for over a year and have been able to tie into every board meeting by ITV locally, but when I ask if I can do that for state meetings, most of the time the answer is no. Being from Aroostook County we fight it all the time and continue to request this option to save on a time and travel money. At times we have been told that it is mandatory that we have to come to the meeting. I have traveled to Augusta for a 2 hour meeting which takes me a total of 8 hours to get there and back, how cost effective is that? This idea would not affect any jobs and would save money to be used for programming instead of travel. I bet if you knew how many people traveled from Aroostook each week to attend meetings in Augusta it would floor you.	2						Voted Out 8-0 11/15
The C	ommittee o	n Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Proposals							
126	LEG	Reduces General Fund allocation to the Legislative Council. The savings to be taken from wherever the Council shall designate.	New AFA		\$160,000		-		Voted In 12-0 12/13/07 .
127	lFW	Eliminate the requirement that everyone who applies for a license be given a printed law summary. (Similar to Administration Initiative #32)	New AFA			\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	Voted In 12-0 12/13/07
128	DHHS	Reduce General Fund allocation to the Licenenssing Division to reflect cost savings to be achieved by LD 1781.	New AFA			\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	Voted In 12-0 12/13/07

Total Estimated Savings of Initatives Voted In as of 12/13/07

\$688,000 \$9,421,790

\$10,109,790

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