

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON LABOR

February 22, 2010

The Honorable Elizabeth H. Mitchell  
President of the Senate  
The Honorable Hannah M. Pingree  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
124th Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Madam President and Madam Speaker:

Pursuant to Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35, we are pleased to submit the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor from the review and evaluation of the Maine Workers' Compensation Board under the State Government Evaluation Act. In its review, the Committee found that the Maine Workers' Compensation Board is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Troy Dale Jackson in cursive.

Senator Troy Dale Jackson  
Senate Chair

Handwritten signature of John L. Tuttle in cursive.

Representative John L. Tuttle  
House Chair

cc: Paul R. Dionne, Executive Director, Maine Workers' Compensation Board  
Patrick Norton, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR

### **Review of the Office of the Maine Workers' Compensation Board under the Government Evaluation Act February 2010**

#### **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 117<sup>th</sup> Legislature to replace the former Government Audit and Program Review Committee and substituted a legislative audit of each agency on a rotating basis with an agency self assessment.

The focus 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 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**

On April 28, 2009, the Joint Standing Committee on Labor notified the Maine Workers' Compensation Board of its intent to review the agency pursuant to the schedule established in section 959 of Title 3. The Maine Workers' Compensation Board submitted its program evaluation report in February 2010.

On February 17, 2010, the Maine Workers' Compensation Board presented the Program Evaluation Report to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor. The committee did not hold any follow-up meetings after Executive Director, Paul R. Dionne's presentation. The Joint Standing Committee on Labor voted unanimously to accept the report as presented on February 18, 2010.

## **Findings and Recommendation**

The Joint Standing Committee on Labor has reviewed the Maine Workers' Compensation Board and finds that it is operating within statutory authority. The mission of the Maine Workers' Compensation Board is "to serve the employees and employers of the State fairly and expeditiously by ensuring compliance with the workers' compensation laws, ensuring the prompt delivery of benefits legally due, promoting the prevention of disputes, utilizing dispute resolution to reduce litigation and facilitating labor-management cooperation." Detailed information about the Maine Workers' Compensation Board can be found in the agency's report, submitted as part of this program evaluation, which meets the criteria set forth in statute (3 MRSA §956).