

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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State of Maine
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

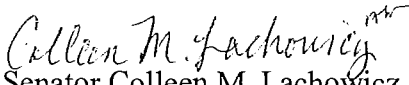
March 28, 2014

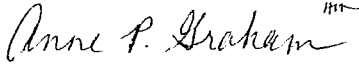
The Honorable Justin L. Alford
President of the Senate
The Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House of Representatives
126th Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

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

Sincerely,


Senator Colleen M. Lachowicz
Senate Chair


Representative Anne P. Graham
House Chair

cc: David W. Austin, Esq., State Claims 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 State Claims Commission
under the Government Evaluation Act
March, 2014**

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 25, 2013, the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government notified the State Claims Commission of its intent to review the agency pursuant to the schedule established in 3 MRSA, §959. The State Claims Commission submitted its program evaluation report in late January 2014.

On February 3, 2014, David W. Austin, Esq., Chair of the State Claims 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 State Claims Commission and finds that it is operating within its statutory authority. The Commission was established to assure that the rights of property owners and interested parties are protected and just compensation is awarded in highway condemnations in the State of Maine. Detailed information about the State Claims Commission can be found in the Commission's Program Evaluation Report, which meets the criteria set in statute (3 MRSA §956).

The Commission consists of five members. Four members are appointed by the Governor, two qualified appraisers certified as general real estate appraisers and two attorneys-at-law, one of whom is designated as chair. The fifth member is appointed at each hearing or series of hearings and is a member of the Commission of county commissioners of the county wherein the land taken is situated