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REP. PEGGY A. PENDLETON  
REP. MICHAEL A. VAUGHAN

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE  
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**February 26, 2007**

**Accepted March 12, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair, Senator Mitchell, called the Government Oversight Committee to order at 1:18 pm in Room 202 of the Burton Cross Building.

**ATTENDANCE**

Senators: Sen. Mitchell, Sen. Raye  
Joining the meeting in progress: Sen. Courtney and Sen. Dow  
Absent: Sen. Bartlett and Sen. Perry

Representatives: Rep. Canavan, Rep. McLeod, Rep. Pendleton and Rep. Vaughan  
Joining the meeting in progress: Rep. Lansley  
Absent: Rep. Boland

Legislative Officers and Staff: Beth Ashcroft, Director of OPEGA  
Jennifer Reichenbach, Analyst, OPEGA  
Scott Farwell, Analyst, OPEGA  
Etta Begin, Adm. Secretary, OPEGA

Department of Public Safety Officers and Staff: Colonel Craig Poulin, Chief, Maine State Police and Acting Commissioner of Public Safety  
Major Timothy Doyle, Public Service Manager, State Police  
Lt. Colonel John Dyer, Deputy Chief, Maine State Police  
Janet Richards, Assistant to the Commissioner of Public Safety  
Dennis Corliss, Director, Service Center B

**Introduction of Government Oversight Committee Members**

Members of the Government Oversight Committee introduced themselves for the benefit of the listening audience.

## **SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY 12, 2007 MEETING**

**Motion:** That the Meeting Summary of February 12, 2007 be accepted as written. (Motion by Rep. McLeod, second by Sen. Raye, PASSED, vote unanimous, 6-0).

### **PRESENTATION OF FINAL REPORT**

#### **• Highway Fund Eligibility at the Department of Public Safety**

Director Ashcroft introduced Jennifer Reichenbach, the lead, and Scott Farwell, who assisted, on the Highway Fund Eligibility at the Department of Public Safety Report. The supervision and quality assurance on this review was done by Principal Analyst Diana Friou.

Ms. Reichenbach, as lead on the review, did the presentation. She reminded members that this report is OPEGA's first analytical study and was requested by the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. The goal of an analytical study is to gather information and perform analysis of that information to provide policy makers with new information for decision-making, as opposed to actually evaluating and assessing things.

Following the presentation of the report, discussion ensued in the following areas:

- Whether there was any legislative record of when the Constitutional amendment was debated;
- Clarification on percentage and dollar amount on activities currently being funded by highway fund that, based on OPEGA's definition, would not be eligible;
- How the determination that 44% of field troops work is highway related was arrived at;
- Why fleet maintenance had a lower percentage of eligibility;
- The number of states that perform audits on use of transportation funds;
- Whether any other states had a highway fund like Maine; and
- Differences in this report as to why it has issues and not findings and recommendations.

Committee members thanked those in attendance at the meeting for their help, information and input to the study.

The Committee will hold a public hearing and comment period on the Analytical Study of Highway Fund Eligibility at the Department of Public Safety at its next meeting, and will also vote on the report at that meeting.

### **REPORT OF OPEGA DIRECTOR**

#### **•Status of Audits in Progress**

Director Ashcroft reported on the status of audits in progress:

- **Bureau of Rehabilitation Services** – OPEGA expects to have the field work testing completed within the next two months. The nature of the issues and the recommendations that have to be put together will dictate when the final report will be issued.
- **Highway Fund Use by Department of Public Safety** is complete. The presentation of the report was given at today's GOC meeting and the public hearing on the report will be at the next meeting.
- **Urban-Rural Initiative Program** is in the field work stage, but is at a point where it could be wrapped up with a report if necessary. The last part of the field work is to visit some municipalities to get documentation on where these funds are being spent.
- **Analysis of Riverview Admissions Request Data** is 90% complete.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### •OPEGA's Work Plan

Director Ashcroft referred members to the information in their notebooks regarding potential audits for consideration in 2007-2008.

Rep. Vaughan requested that whatever program OPEGA endeavors to look at, the GOC receive the Constitutional or statutory definition of that program. Director Ashcroft said that researching the law was always done at the beginning of a review. If that information does not become part of the published report, OPEGA will have the information available.

Following Committee discussion on OPEGA's work plan, OPEGA was directed to go forward with the review of Contracting for Provision of Social and Healthcare Services that is already on OPEGA's work plan and to incorporate the issues raised in the Brookings Report related to the provision of health services.

The Committee also requested that Director Ashcroft prepare for the next GOC meeting recommendations on how the GOC could move forward on the MECMS Report that would assist the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee.

Director Ashcroft will develop a consolidated list of potential or actual savings from OPEGA's completed reviews.

The GOC wanted to invite Commissioner Wyke to the next GOC meeting to provide information regarding the State Financial Administration in the Brookings report. Director Ashcroft will contact the Commissioner.

## NEW BUSINESS

None

## **SCHEDULE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Committee scheduled Monday, March 12, 2007 at 1:00 pm for the next GOC meeting. Included on the Agenda will be the public hearing of the Study on Highway Fund Eligibility at the Department of Public Safety Report.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Government Oversight Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm on the motion of Rep. Pendleton.