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MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Maine State Housing Authority

This topic was first brought to the attention of the Government Oversight Committee (GOC) in February 2011 when the Committee was considering ideas for new projects to place OPEGA's annual workplan. The GOC noted that the Maine State Housing Authority (MaineHousing), as a quasi-independent State entity, did not typically receive the same level of legislative scrutiny as other State agencies and an OPEGA review seemed prudent. On October 18, 2011, the GOC voted to put a review of MaineHousing on OPEGA's workplan.

In early 2012, prior to OPEGA initiating the MaineHousing review, the GOC requested that OPEGA conduct a Rapid Response review of certain types of MaineHousing expenditures that had been publicly called into question. The results of the Rapid Response review were presented to the GOC in May 2012, at which time OPEGA commenced preliminary research for the broader MaineHousing review.

At the Committee's September 20, 2012 meeting, the results of preliminary research on this topic were discussed and the GOC approved the following questions, one of which was recommended by OPEGA, as the focus for the remainder of this review of the Maine State Housing Authority.

1. Is the Weatherization Program achieving satisfactory results? If not, why not? If so, what are the primary factors contributing to its success?
2. Is the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) being administered effectively and efficiently such that LIHEAP funds are providing assistance to as many eligible homeowners as possible?

This project is expected to be completed in early 2013.