

THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, RESEARCH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1st Meeting Agenda September 12, 2007 Houlton, ME

- **7:45am - 10am:** Breakfast at the Houlton Higher Education Center at 18 Military Street;
 - Guest speaker Dr. Catherine Renault, Director of the Office of Innovation: The Importance of Innovation in the Rural Economy
- **10am -11am:** Tour of a local business- Smith & Wesson
- **11am -12pm:** History of Houlton DVD – presented at the Houlton Regional Hospital Ed Center
- **12PM -1:15pm:** Lunch at the Courtyard Café in downtown Houlton
- **1:30pm– 4pm:** Public Forum at the Houlton Town Council Chambers (on the 2nd floor of the Houlton Town Office Building)
 - Welcome and Introduction of Committee Members
 - Review of the Goals of the Public Hearing: To receive public comment on 2 issues:
 - Gather information from the small business community and small business owners as to how the State can improve its business climate by removing unnecessary laws and regulations that are outdated, unnecessary, or burdensome and that are hindering Maine's small businesses and the State economy. Public comment is requested specifically on relevant laws and regulations that are within the jurisdiction of the Business, Research and Economic Development Committee, including the following: professional and occupational licensing; research and technology issues; retail pricing; franchising; economic planning and development agencies; venture capital and trade programs; opportunity zones; housing; consumer protection; and tourism.
 - Gather public comment from the small business community on how the State can improve business compliance with the current statutory reporting requirements for beneficiaries of state economic development incentives (including ETIFs, tax credits, and other financial incentives).
- **4pm: Adjournment**