

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

—  
H.P. 1242 - L.D. 1934

**Resolve, to Improve the Coordination and Delivery of Planning Grants and  
Technical Assistance to Communities in Maine**

**Sec. 1. Review of planning grants and technical assistance to communities in this State. Resolved:** That the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future shall review opportunities and structural changes in the organization of State Government and make recommendations that will result in the improved coordination and implementation of planning grants and technical assistance programs for communities in this State and regional planning and development organizations. The review must:

1. Consider the municipal planning grants and technical assistance needs of communities, especially the smallest and most underfunded communities, particularly related to navigating complex challenges, including, but not limited to, land use planning, climate resilience, natural resource protection, transportation, housing development, economic development and infrastructure;
2. Consider state programs that currently exist to provide municipal planning grants and technical assistance to communities in this State to help them address those needs, and identify gaps in services and geographic coverage;
3. Consider mechanisms to support municipalities and regional planning and development organizations in competing for ongoing competitive state and federal funding opportunities;
4. Recommend the most effective organizational structure for state-funded programs that support local government to ensure that municipalities and regional planning and development organizations that support communities have the support they need in a coordinated, easily accessible manner with fewer points of entry; and
5. Recommend the optimal organizational structure and staffing configurations and include a summary of budget implications to improve coordination and implementation of planning grants and technical assistance.

**Sec. 2. Consultation. Resolved:** That the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future shall consult with diverse stakeholders, including representatives of municipalities and regional planning and development organizations, to provide input on their needs and

recommendations, and the office shall coordinate recommendations with leadership and staff from the state agencies that manage programs and grant funds across State Government that support community planning and technical assistance, including the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Department of Marine Resources, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Environmental Protection, and coordinate with the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to consider and develop recommendations regarding any budget and staffing issues.

**Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future shall submit a report including proposed legislation and financial and staffing implications with regard to its review and consultation under this resolve to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government and the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs by December 6, 2023.