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MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Review of Temporary Assistance of Needy Families (TANF)

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF) was first voted onto the Government Oversight Committee's (GOC) "On Deck List" in February of 2017. On March 24, 2017, the GOC voted to move the review of the TANF program to OPEGA's Work Plan. OPEGA began preliminary research in May of 2017.

On October 18, 2017, the GOC voted to continue with a more detailed review of the TANF program and approved the following scope questions:

1. What are the primary contributing factors to the decline in TANF basic assistance caseload since 2010?
2. How is Maine's use of federal TANF funds and the populations served with those funds changing?
3. To what extent does DHHS have effective processes for identifying and prioritizing potential uses of TANF funds and ensuring funds are spent on allowable supports and services?
4. To what extent does DHHS evaluate the effectiveness of programs and services supported with federal TANF funds?
5. To what extent is DHHS taking effective action to minimize negative fiscal impacts for failing to meet TANF's work participation requirements?

OPEGA expects to complete this review in the second quarter of 2018.