

CHAPTER 310

OFFICE OF POLICY INNOVATION AND THE FUTURE

§3101. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §24 (AFF).]

1. Director. "Director" means the Director of the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future established by section 3102.

[PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §7 (RPR).]

2. Office. "Office" means the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future established by section 3102.

[PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §8 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §24 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. D, §6 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 383, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §§7, 8 (AMD).

§3102. Office established; purpose

The Office of Policy Innovation and the Future is established in the Executive Department to: support the creation of a coherent system of policy planning and coordinated implementation as one function and responsibility of the executive branch; serve the Governor as a research, advisory, consultative, coordinating and administrative agency; and advance policies that support a sustainable future for the State's people, communities, natural resources, physical infrastructure, industries, businesses and institutions by: [PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §9 (NEW).]

1. Assistance; data; policy. Providing technical assistance and data to the Governor by undertaking special studies and plans as directed and preparing policy;

[PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §9 (RPR).]

2. Coordination. Facilitating general intergovernmental coordination;

[PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §9 (RPR).]

3. Innovation. Supporting state efforts to encourage innovation and policy that facilitates innovation in the public and private sectors;

[PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §9 (RPR).]

4. Technology. Supporting improved technology use for government programs and advancing responsible state data policies;

[PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §9 (RPR).]

5. Resources. Supporting the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; and

[PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §9 (RPR).]

6. Analysis. Conducting ongoing demographic, economic, workforce and other needed analyses to support state policy makers.

[PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §9 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §24 (AFF). PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. GG, §4 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. D, §7 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 383, §2 (RPR). PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §9 (RPR).

§3103. Director

The Director of the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future is appointed by the Governor and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. [PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §10 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §24 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. D, §8 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 383, §3 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §10 (RPR).

§3104. Powers and duties

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §24 (AFF). PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. GG, §5 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 383, §4 (RP).

§3104-A. Powers and duties

The director shall exercise the powers of the office and is responsible for the execution of the duties of the office. [PL 2019, c. 383, §5 (NEW).]

1. Duties of the director. The director shall:

A. Appoint and remove the staff of the office and prescribe the duties of the staff as necessary to implement the duties of the office, including:

(1) Hiring professional personnel competent by education, training and experience in the fields of economics and economic development, local and regional planning, statistics, human resources, natural resources, climate science, energy, transportation, finance, taxation, health, education and general science and policy making; and

(2) Employing office assistance as necessary to support the work of the office; [PL 2019, c. 383, §5 (NEW).]

B. Supervise and administer the affairs of the office and advise the Governor and other officials of State Government on matters of statewide policy planning and consult with them about policy planning and development matters and projects that affect the future of the State and its people; [PL 2019, c. 383, §5 (NEW).]

C. At the request of the Governor, act for the State in the initiation of or participation in any multi-governmental agency program related to the purposes of the office; [PL 2019, c. 383, §5 (NEW).]

D. At the request of the Governor, prepare and submit a budget for the office; and [PL 2019, c. 383, §5 (NEW).]

E. At the request of the Governor, report on the activities of the office and, after consultation with and approval by the Governor, submit such recommendations for legislative action as are determined necessary to further the purposes of this chapter. [PL 2019, c. 383, §5 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 383, §5 (NEW).]

2. Duties of the office. Under the supervision of the director, the office shall:

A. Provide technical assistance to the Governor in identifying intermediate and long-range goals and policies for the State and appropriate measures to achieve these goals; [PL 2019, c. 383, §5 (NEW).]

B. Conduct continuing analysis of the economy, human resources, natural resources and energy resources of the State, as well as other issues as directed by the Governor; collect and collate all data and statistics relating to these matters; and assist the Governor and state departments in formulating policies and programs to achieve identified goals; [PL 2019, c. 383, §5 (NEW).]

C. Participate with other states or their subdivisions in interstate policy planning and provide guidance to other state or local governments to assist their policy planning; [PL 2019, c. 383, §5 (NEW).]

D. Assist the State in applying for, using and leveraging federal and private grant-making sources on issues of importance to the State; and [PL 2019, c. 383, §5 (NEW).]

E. Act as a coordinating agency among departments and agencies of State Government on issues requiring multiple departments or agencies to work together to develop strategies to respond to state challenges. [PL 2019, c. 383, §5 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 383, §5 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 383, §5 (NEW).

§3105. Acceptance and administration of funds

The office may accept, administer and expend funds, including but not limited to funds from the Federal Government or from private sources, for purposes consistent with this chapter. The director shall provide a report of the amount of any outside funding received from private sources and its designated purpose to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs no later than 30 days after receiving the funds. [PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §24 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §24 (AFF).

§3106. Contracts; agreements

With the consent of the Governor the office may employ expert and professional consultants, contract for services as the director determines necessary, within the limits of the funds provided and consistent with the powers and duties of the office, and enter into agreements with the Federal Government and other agencies and organizations as will promote the objectives of this chapter. [PL 2019, c. 383, §6 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §24 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 383, §6 (RPR).

§3107. Governmental cooperation; temporary reassignment of governmental employees

Any department, agency, authority, board, commission or other instrumentality of the State or other governmental unit may assist in the gathering of information, reports and data that relate to state policy planning and development. Upon request by the director, the Governor may assign to the office on a temporary basis personnel from any other state department or agency needed for a project assigned to the office. [PL 2019, c. 383, §7 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §24 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 383, §7 (RPR).

§3108. Confidential or proprietary information

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §5 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. DD, §24 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 383, §8 (RP).

§3109. Community Resilience Partnership Program

1. Definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "community" means a municipal government, tribal government, plantation, township or unorganized territory. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. OOOO, §1 (NEW).]

2. Program established; administration. The Community Resilience Partnership Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the office to provide direction, assistance and grants to communities in the State to help the communities reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy and become more resilient to the effects of climate change. The office shall administer the program to provide technical and financial assistance for local and regional planning and implementation projects consistent with the State's emissions reduction targets under Title 38, section 576-A and the state climate action plan under Title 38, section 577. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. OOOO, §1 (NEW).]

3. Grants. The program shall make grants from money appropriated to the program by the Legislature and any funds received by the office for the purposes of the program, including federal funding or private funds.

A. The program may solicit applications for grants and make grant awards through a competitive process to eligible communities and to service provider organizations as determined by the program. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. OOOO, §1 (NEW).]

B. The department may establish eligibility requirements and other criteria to consider in awarding grants, as long as the criteria support the goals to help communities reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy and become more resilient to the effects of climate change. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. OOOO, §1 (NEW).]

C. To maximize the availability of the technical and financial assistance program to all communities and to multi-community regions and service providers, financial assistance programs administered competitively under this section are exempt from rules adopted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services pursuant to section 1825-C for use in the purchasing of services and the awarding of grants and contracts. The department shall publish a program statement describing its grant program and advertising its availability to eligible applicants. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. OOOO, §1 (NEW).]

D. Grants awarded under this section may be for a period of up to 2 years. Recipients of grant funds through the program shall cooperate with the office's performance of periodic evaluations. The recipients shall meet the office's specific reporting requirements. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. OOOO, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. OOOO, §1 (NEW).]

4. Other technical assistance. The program may provide other technical assistance and knowledge sharing that may include, but is not limited to, assisting communities with information about available grant opportunities, sharing best practices from jurisdictions inside and outside the State, providing model language for local ordinances and policies and providing information to the general public that may support local and statewide policy changes meant to reduce emissions, encourage the transition to clean energy and increase resiliency to the effects of climate change. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. OOOO, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. OOOO, §1 (NEW).

§3110. Office of New Americans

1. Establishment; purpose; administration. The Office of New Americans is established within the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future for the purpose of improving the economic and civic integration of immigrants into the State's workforce and communities to strengthen the economy over the long term. The Office of Policy Innovation and the Future shall administer the Office of New Americans.

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

2. Director; duties. The director of the Office of New Americans shall fulfill the duties and activities listed in this section:

A. Hiring professional personnel competent by education, training and experience to carry out the work of the Office of New Americans; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

B. Supervising and administering the affairs of the Office of New Americans; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

C. Determining the necessary budget for the Office of New Americans; and [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

D. Reporting on the activities of the Office of New Americans. [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

3. Duties of the Office of New Americans. Under the supervision of the director of the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and the director of the Office of New Americans, and with guidance from the Office of New Americans Advisory Council established in section 3111, the Office of New Americans shall identify and address needs, barriers and opportunities in order to support the long-term economic and civic integration of immigrants in the State by:

A. Collecting and analyzing relevant data; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

B. Coordinating with all relevant local, state and federal government agencies; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

C. Serving as the State's primary liaison with all relevant external stakeholders; and [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

D. Undertaking and promoting activities that improve the economic and civic integration of immigrants into the State's workforce and communities. [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

4. Activities. The Office of New Americans shall undertake and promote activities that improve the economic and civic integration of immigrants into the State's workforce and communities. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

A. Strengthening workforce opportunities by providing guidance and promoting improved pathways for professional accreditation and licensure, supporting enhanced career pathways and engaging with businesses to increase employment, retention and advancement of immigrant employees; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

B. Expanding, improving and increasing access to English language learning programs; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

C. Strengthening financial literacy programs, financial education and entrepreneurship supports to assist individuals, immigrant entrepreneurs and small business owners; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

D. Supporting the expansion of access to legal services and protections; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

E. Partnering with and supporting municipalities, school administrative units, educational institutions, community-based organizations and businesses providing assistance or opportunities to immigrants; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

F. Participating in the nationwide Office of New Americans State Network, or its successor network, to access information and best practices from other states; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

G. Collaborating with and providing guidance to agencies of State Government and the entity designated by the Federal Government to administer the State's refugee resettlement services in developing and executing policies that support the purpose of the Office of New Americans; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

H. Coordinating with and advising federal agencies and the State's congressional delegation on federal policies that support the purpose of the Office of New Americans; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

I. Advising the Governor and Legislature regarding any statutory, regulatory or other policies or practices that may be addressed to better support the purpose of the Office of New Americans; and [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

J. Promoting greater understanding of the history of immigration in the State, the contributions and influence of immigrants in the State and how communities may support immigrants' integration into local civic and economic life. [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

5. Rulemaking. The Office of New Americans may adopt rules as necessary for the proper administration of this section and section 3111 pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. Unless otherwise specified, rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.
[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

6. Report. Beginning February 1, 2026, the Office of New Americans shall report biennially to the Governor and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over relevant matters with information and recommendations relating to the work and needs of the Office of New Americans.
[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §1 (NEW).

§3111. Office of New Americans Advisory Council

The Office of New Americans Advisory Council, as established in section 12004-I, subsection 6-K, is created as an advisory council to the Office of New Americans established in section 3110 on matters affecting the long-term economic and civic integration of immigrants in the State. [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §2 (NEW).]

1. Duties of advisory council. The advisory council shall advise the Office of New Americans on matters affecting the long-term economic and civic integration of immigrants in the State.
[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §2 (NEW).]

2. Membership. The advisory council consists of 24 members as follows:

- A. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §2 (NEW).]
- B. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §2 (NEW).]
- C. Three members appointed by the President of the Senate representing the following:
- (1) A school administrative unit;
 - (2) An adult education program; and
 - (3) A small business; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §2 (NEW).]
- D. Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House representing the following:
- (1) An organization providing refugee resettlement services;
 - (2) A provider of legal assistance to immigrants; and
 - (3) A municipality; [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §2 (NEW).]
- E. At least 10 members who are immigrants, 8 appointed by the Governor, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House; and [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §2 (NEW).]
- F. Four members appointed by the Governor representing the following:
- (1) A large business;
 - (2) A business or organization with demonstrated expertise in housing assistance or housing production;
 - (3) An organization with demonstrated expertise in workforce development; and
 - (4) An employer with demonstrated experience providing immigrant apprenticeship opportunities, support and training programs. [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §2 (NEW).]

In making appointments of members to the advisory council, the appointing authorities shall make a good faith effort to ensure that the members of the advisory council reflect geographic, gender, ethnic and racial diversity.

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §2 (NEW).]

3. Terms of office; removal. Legislative members of the advisory council serve a term not to exceed their term in office, except that a legislative member may be appointed for successive terms. Nonlegislative members serve 3-year terms and may be reappointed. A vacancy for an unexpired term must be filled in accordance with subsection 2. A member may serve until a replacement is appointed. The Governor may terminate the membership of any appointee for good cause. The reason for the termination must be communicated in writing to a member whose membership is terminated. The membership of any member must be terminated if the member is absent from 3 consecutive meetings without communicating good cause to a chair of the advisory council.

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §2 (NEW).]

4. Cochairs. The Governor shall appoint 2 cochairs from among the members appointed and serving pursuant to subsection 2.

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §2 (NEW).]

5. Meetings; staffing. The advisory council shall meet at the discretion of the cochairs. Meetings may be cancelled or postponed at the discretion of the cochairs. All meetings of the advisory council

are public proceedings within the meaning of Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1. The Office of New Americans shall provide staffing services as necessary to the advisory council.

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §2 (NEW).]

6. Compensation; expenses. Members of the advisory council not otherwise compensated by their employer or the entity they represent for their time serving on the council may be compensated for their time and reimbursed for expenses, to the extent resources are available. The Office of New Americans shall determine the amount and manner of compensation and reimbursement for expenses.

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. FF, §2 (NEW).

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