



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5940**

February Session, 2008

\*        HB05940FIN        040208        \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES  
AND MUNICIPAL OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 4-124s of the 2008 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

4 (a) For purposes of this section, (1) "regional council of  
5 governments" means any such council organized under the provisions  
6 of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, and (2) "regional council of  
7 elected officials" means any such council organized under the  
8 provisions of sections 4-124c to 4-124h, inclusive, [, and (3) "regional  
9 planning agency" means an agency defined in chapter 127.]

10 (b) There is established a regional performance incentive program  
11 that shall be administered by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
12 Management. On or before December 1, 2007, [and annually thereafter,  
13 any regional planning agency,] any regional council of elected officials,  
14 or any regional council of governments, or any combination thereof,  
15 may submit to said secretary a proposal for joint provision of a service  
16 or services that are currently provided by municipalities within the  
17 region of such [agency or] council or contiguous thereto, but not  
18 currently provided on a regional basis. The proposal shall include such  
19 service or services which may increase the participating municipalities'

20 purchasing power or provide a cost savings initiative resulting in a  
21 decrease in participating municipalities' expenses and lower property  
22 taxes. On or before December 31, 2008, and annually thereafter, any  
23 such council may submit a proposal to said secretary for: (1) The joint  
24 provision of any service that one or more participating municipalities  
25 of such council or agency currently provide but which is not provided  
26 on a regional basis; or (2) a planning study regarding the joint  
27 provision of any service on a regional basis. A copy of said proposal  
28 shall be sent to the legislators representing said participating  
29 municipalities.

30 [(c) The proposal shall (1) describe at least one service currently  
31 provided by a municipality or municipalities within the region of the  
32 agency or council or contiguous thereto, but not currently provided on  
33 a regional basis, (2) provide a description of how such service would  
34 be delivered on a regional basis, including consideration of what entity  
35 would be responsible for such service, and how the population would  
36 continue to be served, (3) describe the amount and the manner in  
37 which the service will achieve economies of scale and the amount and  
38 manner in which each municipality will reduce its mill rate as a result  
39 of the savings realized by changing the municipal service to a regional  
40 service, (4) include a cost benefit analysis for the provision of such  
41 service by the municipality and by the council or agency, (5) set out a  
42 plan of implementation for such regional service, (6) estimate the  
43 savings that will be realized by each municipality, and (7) any other  
44 items requested by said secretary. Each proposal shall have attached to  
45 it (A) a resolution by the legislative body of each municipality affected  
46 by the proposal endorsing such proposal; and (B) certification by each  
47 such municipality that there are no legal obstacles to provision of  
48 services in the manner specified in the proposal including, but not  
49 limited to, binding arbitration. The proposal shall be submitted on a  
50 form prescribed by said secretary. Said secretary shall review all such  
51 proposals, and award grants to those that the secretary determines best  
52 meet the requirements of this subsection. In making such grants the  
53 secretary shall give priority to proposals presented by regional

54 councils of government which include participation of at least fifty per  
55 cent of the member municipalities of such council.]

56 (c) (1) A council specified in subsection (a) of this section shall  
57 submit each proposal in the form and manner said secretary prescribes  
58 and shall, at a minimum, provide the following information for each  
59 proposal: (A) Service description; (B) the explanation of the need for  
60 such service; (C) the method of delivering such service on a regional  
61 basis; (D) the organization that would be responsible for regional  
62 service delivery; (E) a description of the population that would be  
63 served; (F) the manner in which regional service delivery will achieve  
64 economies of scale; (G) the amount by which participating  
65 municipalities will reduce their mill rates as a result of savings  
66 realized; (H) a cost benefit analysis for the provision of the service by  
67 each participating municipality and by the entity submitting the  
68 proposal; (I) a plan of implementation for delivery of the service on a  
69 regional basis; (J) a resolution endorsing such proposal approved by  
70 the legislative body of each participating municipality, or, in any town  
71 where the legislative body is a town meeting, by the board of  
72 selectmen; and (K) an explanation of the potential legal obstacles, if  
73 any, to the regional provision of the service.

74 (2) The secretary shall review each proposal and shall award grants  
75 for proposals the secretary determines best meet the requirements of  
76 this section. In awarding such grants, the secretary shall give priority  
77 to a proposal submitted by any council which may increase the  
78 purchasing power of the member municipalities of such council or  
79 provide a cost savings initiative resulting in a decrease in expenses of  
80 such municipalities, allowing such municipalities to lower property  
81 taxes.

82 (d) [Not later than February 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the]  
83 The secretary shall submit to the Governor and the joint standing  
84 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
85 relating to finance, revenue and bonding a report on the grants  
86 provided pursuant to this section. Each such report shall include

87 information on the amount of each grant, and the potential of each  
 88 grant for leveraging other public and private investments. The  
 89 secretary shall submit such report for the fiscal year commencing July  
 90 1, 2007, not later than February 1, 2008, and shall submit a report for  
 91 each subsequent fiscal year not later than the first day of February in  
 92 such fiscal year.

93       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) For the fiscal year  
 94 commencing July 1, 2008, there is established a municipal operational  
 95 efficiency study grant that the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
 96 Management shall administer. Said secretary may enter into an  
 97 assistance agreement, jointly with a municipality or with two or more  
 98 municipalities, for purposes of conducting an efficiency study of any  
 99 operation performed at the municipal level. Entering into such an  
 100 agreement shall make a municipality eligible for a grant under this  
 101 section, in an amount up to seventy-five per cent of the cost incurred  
 102 by the municipality to hire a consultant to assist in the preparation of  
 103 such study or plan. The secretary shall, within available  
 104 appropriations, provide staff assistance to each signatory of such  
 105 assistance agreement.

106       (b) Not later than August 1, 2008, the chief executive officer of a  
 107 municipality or the chief executive officers of two or more  
 108 municipalities may submit an application to the secretary to  
 109 participate in a joint assistance agreement under the provisions of this  
 110 section. Such application shall be made in the form and manner the  
 111 secretary prescribes. The secretary shall review each such application  
 112 and shall select assistance agreement participants, giving priority  
 113 consideration to applications submitted by two or more municipalities  
 114 indicating willingness to jointly undertake the study or plan described  
 115 in subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	4-124s

Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
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**FIN**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*