



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 334

January Session, 2009

Substitute House Bill No. 6463

House of Representatives, March 30, 2009

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. SHARKEY of the 88th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP ON REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 8-31a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

3 Within any planning region of the state as defined or redefined by
4 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or his designee
5 under the provisions of section 16a-4a a regional planning agency may
6 be created by the adoption of sections 8-31a to 8-37a, inclusive, by
7 ordinance of the legislative bodies of two or more towns, cities or
8 boroughs within such region, provided the total number of
9 representatives of such towns, cities or boroughs shall equal sixty per
10 cent or more of the total number of representatives possible of all the
11 towns, cities or boroughs within such region computed as prescribed
12 in this section. Any other town, city or borough within such region
13 may join such regional planning agency by the adoption of said

14 sections by ordinance of its legislative body. [Each] The chief elected
15 official of each town, city or borough within such region, or the
16 designee of such official, shall be a representative on such agency and
17 each such town, city or borough, except as provided herein, shall be
18 entitled to two other representatives on such agency and [shall be
19 entitled to] additional representation on such agency at the ratio of one
20 representative for each fifty thousand of population or fraction thereof
21 over and above a population of twenty-five thousand as determined
22 by the last-completed federal census. Cities and boroughs with
23 boundaries not coterminous with the boundaries of the town in which
24 they are located, upon adoption of the provisions of said sections, may
25 have their chief elected official, or the designee of such official, and one
26 other representative on such agency provided the population of the
27 city or borough is greater than fifty per cent of the total population of
28 the town as determined by the last-completed federal census, and the
29 town, upon adoption of the provisions of said sections, may have the
30 chief elected official of such town, or the designee of such official, and
31 one other representative on such agency. If the total population of the
32 town is greater than twenty-five thousand, the town may elect or
33 appoint the extra representative or representatives as prescribed
34 above, except that, for each fifty thousand population residing in the
35 city or borough, the city or borough may have one additional
36 representative. Noncoterminous cities or boroughs which do not
37 contain fifty per cent or more of the total population of the town in
38 which they are located shall not adopt the provisions of said sections
39 and shall not join such regional planning agency. Where a planning
40 commission exists in a town, city or borough established under the
41 provisions of the general statutes or any special act, at least one of the
42 representatives from such town, city or borough to the regional
43 planning agency shall be appointed by such planning commission. The
44 other representative or representatives shall be elected or appointed in
45 the manner provided by ordinance adopted by the legislative body of
46 such town, city or borough.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	8-31a
-----------	------------------------	-------

PD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE - None	None	None

Explanation

The bill mandates the membership of the chief elected official, or his designee on regional planning agencies. This results in no municipal fiscal impact as it is anticipated that members will participate only to the extent there are available fiscal resources.

The Out Years

None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6463*****AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP ON REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill increases the membership on regional planning agencies (RPAs), which currently operate in five of the state's 15 planning regions. Under current law, each municipality in an RPA region gets two representatives on the RPA. Those with populations over 25,000 get an additional representative for each additional 50,000 people or fraction thereof.

The bill makes each municipality's chief elected official (CEO) or his or her designee a representative on the RPA, thus increasing each municipality's base representation from two to three. It similarly increases the representation of cities and boroughs within a town and whose boundaries are not conterminous with it. Current law gives these municipalities one representative each on the RPA. The bill makes the city and borough's CEOs or their designees representatives, thus increasing their membership to two.

The state's RPAs are Central Connecticut RPA, Connecticut River Estuary RPA, Greater Bridgeport RPA, Midstate RPA, and Southwestern Connecticut RPA.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2009

BACKGROUND***Planning Regions***

The law authorizes the Office of Policy and Management secretary to divide the state into logical planning regions. Starting by January 1, 2012, he must analyze the regional boundaries at least once every 20

years, and redesignate them if necessary. The 15 existing regions were designated during the late 1950s.

Regional Planning Organizations

Municipalities within the 15 regions may form three types of regional planning organizations: (1) RPAs, (2) regional councils of elected officials (RCEOs), and (3) regional councils of governments (RCOGs). Their powers and duties vary, and so do the rules for forming them.

Municipalities can establish an RPA to prepare the statutorily required regional plan of development. Under current law, their representatives on the RPA board are not limited to each municipality’s CEO. Consequently, the CEOs may form an RCEO where they can air their mutual concerns and interests. This council may perform the RPA’s duties if the region does not have one.

Lastly, the municipalities can put the policymaking and planning functions under their CEOs by establishing an RCEO that automatically supplants and assumes the duties of the RPA. This council includes a regional planning commission consisting of one representative from each local planning commission.

The table below shows the types of RPOs operating in the state.

Regional Council of Governments (COG)	Regional Planning Agencies (RPA)	Regional Councils of Elected Officials (RCEO)
Capitol Region COG	Central Connecticut RPA	Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials
COG of the Central Naugatuck Valley	Connecticut River Estuary RPA	Litchfield Council of Elected Officials
Northeastern Connecticut COG	Greater Bridgeport RPA	
Northwestern Connecticut COG	Midstate RPA	
South Central Regional	Southwestern Connecticut RPA	

COG		
Southeastern Connecticut COG		
Valley COG		
Windham Region COG		

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/11/2009)