



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 532

January Session, 2009

Senate Bill No. 384

Senate, April 8, 2009

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through SEN. COLEMAN of the 2nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROMOTING REGIONALISM IN THE STATE.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Municipality" means a town, city or consolidated town and
4 borough;

5 (2) "Legislative body" means the board of selectmen, town council,
6 city council, board of alderman, board of directors, board of
7 representatives or board of the mayor and burgesses of a municipality;
8 and

9 (3) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
10 Management or the designee of the secretary.

11 (b) There is established a municipal collaboration program that shall
12 be administered by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and

13 Management. Any two or more municipalities may submit to said
14 secretary a plan for active collaboration by the municipalities. A copy
15 of said plan shall be sent to the legislators representing the
16 collaborating municipalities.

17 (c) (1) Plans shall be in the form and manner the secretary prescribes
18 and shall have provisions for joint activities for (A) capital
19 improvements, including proposals for cooperatively bidding or
20 contracting to build or purchase capital assets and the shared usage of
21 buildings; (B) cooperative energy, including soliciting bids for the best
22 prices for electricity, gasoline and heating fuel and collaboration on
23 distributive generation and other sustainable energy projects; (C)
24 shared services, including an analysis of whether savings could be
25 obtained in-house or through joint bids; (D) health insurance through
26 pooling of municipal employees; (E) highway maintenance; (F) transit-
27 oriented development that identifies areas in all the municipalities
28 participating in a plan for economic and residential growth based on
29 existing commercial, industrial and transportation infrastructure; (G)
30 cooperative revenue sharing from new economic development; (H)
31 special education, in consultation with regional education service
32 centers, including development of strategies for shared transportation,
33 including proposals for more efficient special education services and a
34 method for assessing the benefits of in-house regionalized services
35 compared to regional bids; (I) consolidation of early childhood
36 programs, including, but not limited to, Head Start, School Readiness
37 and pre-kindergarten programs; (J) school construction; (K) regional
38 water supply and natural resources protection; (L) arts and culture;
39 (M) agriculture and food security; and (N) regional recreation. The
40 plan shall establish procedures for amendment, termination and
41 withdrawal from implementation of the plan. The municipalities that
42 are collaborating in the plan shall hold a public hearing on the
43 proposed plan. The plan shall be approved by each collaborating
44 municipality by resolution of the legislative body.

45 (2) After approval of the plan by collaborating municipalities, such
46 collaborating municipalities shall send a copy to the Secretary of the

47 Office of Policy and Management. Not more than thirty days after
48 receipt of the plan, the secretary shall make a written determination as
49 to whether or not the plan complies with the provisions of this section
50 and regulations adopted thereunder. The secretary shall send a copy of
51 the determination to each municipality collaborating in the plan.

52 (3) The secretary, on or before July 1, 2010, and annually thereafter,
53 shall award grants for plans the secretary determines meet the
54 requirements of this section. The amount of grants made to
55 collaborating municipalities after January 1, 2011, shall be based on a
56 priority system developed by the secretary that evaluates
57 implementation of municipal collaboration plans. Any unencumbered
58 funds in any fiscal year may be carried forward to the next fiscal year
59 and used to provide additional funds to municipalities that receive the
60 most priority points.

61 (d) The secretary shall adopt regulations in accordance with the
62 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes to implement the
63 provisions of this section. Such regulations shall include a system for
64 assigning a priority to evaluate implementation of municipal
65 collaborative plans.

66 (e) The secretary shall submit to the Governor and the joint standing
67 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
68 relating to planning and development a report on the grants provided
69 pursuant to this section. Each such report shall include information on
70 the amount of each grant and the activities performed by the
71 municipalities pursuant to an approved plan. The secretary shall
72 submit a report for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2010, not later
73 than February 1, 2011, and shall submit a report for each subsequent
74 fiscal year not later than the first day of March in such fiscal year. Each
75 report shall be submitted in accordance with the provisions of section
76 11-4a of the general statutes.

77 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) The Secretary of the Office of
78 Policy and Management, within available appropriations, shall make
79 grants to municipalities for the purpose of providing technical

80 assistance in developing and implementing municipal collaboration
81 plans to be submitted pursuant to section 1 of this act. The secretary
82 may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54
83 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section

PD *Joint Favorable*

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - See Below	None	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Various Municipalities	Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill establishes a municipal collaboration program administered by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). Beginning in FY 11, OPM must make grants, within available appropriations, to participating municipalities for technical assistance in developing and implementing municipal collaboration plans. It is uncertain how many municipalities would participate, which plans would be deemed consistent with the bill’s provisions, and the amount OPM would award to eligible municipalities. Thus, it is unknown how much it would cost to fully implement this bill, and what, if any, revenue gain to the participating municipalities would occur. There are no funds for this purpose contained in sHB 6365, the budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee. Due to the bill's provision that OPM provide grants within available appropriations, they will either: 1) shift resources from other existing agency priorities; 2) incur a deficiency; 3) not be able to fully meet the grant requirements; or 4) delay implementation until resources are made available.

It is anticipated that OPM can administer the program with the agency’s normal budgetary resources.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 384*****AN ACT PROMOTING REGIONALISM IN THE STATE.*****SUMMARY:**

The bill establishes a municipal collaboration program, administered by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary. Any two or more municipalities may submit a plan to the secretary that must provide for joint activities in a wide variety of areas. A copy of the plan must be sent to the legislators representing collaborating municipalities. The bill specifies what must be in the plans and how they are approved by such municipalities.

The secretary must adopt implementing regulations, which must include a system for “assigning a priority to evaluate implementation of municipal collaborative plans”.

Within 30 days after receiving the plan, the secretary must make a written determination on whether it complies with the bill and the implementing regulations. The secretary must send a copy of the determination to each municipality collaborating in the plan.

The secretary, by July 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, must award grants for plans he determines meet the bill’s requirements. The amount of grants made to collaborating municipalities after January 1, 2011 must be based on a priority system the secretary develops that evaluates implementation of the plans. Any unencumbered funds in any fiscal year may be carried forward to the next fiscal year to provide additional funds to municipalities that receive the most priority points.

The bill requires the secretary to report to the governor and the

Planning and Development Committee on the grants provided under the bill. Each report must include information on the amount of each grant and the activities performed by the municipalities under an approved plan. The secretary must submit a report for FY 10 by February 1, 2011 and a report for each subsequent fiscal year March 1st.

The bill requires the secretary, within available appropriations, to make grants to municipalities to provide technical assistance in developing and implementing municipal collaboration plans to be submitted under the bill. It allows the secretary to adopt regulations regarding these grants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2009

PLANS CONTENTS

The plans must be in the form and manner the secretary prescribes. Each plan must establish procedures to amend, terminate, withdraw from, and implementation of the plan. The municipalities that are collaborating in the plan must hold a public hearing on it.

The bill requires the plans to include provisions for joint activities for:

1. capital improvements, including proposals for cooperatively bidding or contracting to build or purchase capital assets and the shared use of buildings;
2. cooperative energy, including soliciting bids for the best prices for electricity, gasoline, and heating fuel and collaboration on distributive (on-site) generation and other sustainable energy projects;
3. shared services, including an analysis of whether savings could be obtained in-house or through joint bids;
4. health insurance through pooling of municipal employees;
5. highway maintenance;

6. transit-oriented development that identifies areas in all the participating municipalities for economic and residential growth based on existing commercial, industrial, and transportation infrastructure;
7. cooperative revenue sharing from new economic development;
8. special education, in consultation with regional education service centers, including development of strategies for shared transportation, proposals for more efficient special education services, and a method for assessing the benefits of in-house regionalized services compared to regional bids;
9. consolidation of early childhood programs, such as Head Start, School Readiness, and pre-kindergarten programs;
10. school construction;
11. regional water supply and natural resources protection;
12. arts and culture;
13. agriculture and food security; and
14. regional recreation.

The bill appears to require, the plan to include provisions for joint activities in all of these areas.

PLAN APPROVAL

The plan must be approved by each collaborating municipality by resolution of its legislative body. The legislative body is the board of selectmen; town council; city council; board of alderman; board of directors; board of representatives; or board of the mayor and burgesses of a town, city, or consolidated town and borough. After approving the plan, collaborating municipalities must send a copy to the secretary.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/20/2009)