



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Committee Bill No. 384

LCO No. 4123

04123SB00384PD_

Referred to Committee on Planning and Development

Introduced by:
(PD)

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

Statement of Purpose:

To promote and encourage regionalism among municipalities for the purpose of lowering costs, promoting smart growth and creating efficiencies for providing certain services.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. WILLIAMS, 29th Dist.

S.B. 384