



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 5383

LCO No. 1695

01695_____PD_

Referred to Committee on Planning and Development

Introduced by:
(PD)

AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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

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2 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) In order to coordinate,
3 implement and promote responsible economic growth and activities in
4 this state, any of the following entities may, after approval by the
5 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, the
6 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the Assistant
7 Secretary of Economic Development of the United States Department
8 of Commerce, either individually or in conjunction with one or more
9 other such entities, establish a regional economic development district
10 for the purposes of sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this act and sections 32-
11 10, 16a-27 and 8-35a of the general statutes: (1) A regional economic
12 development commission formed under section 7-137 of the general
13 statutes; (2) any organization that has a strategy that would meet the
14 requirements of section 2 of this act and has been approved by the
15 Assistant Secretary of Economic Development of the United States
16 Department of Commerce; (3) a corporation exempt from federal

17 income tax under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,
18 or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United
19 States, as amended from time to time; (4) another regional economic
20 development commission or corporation formed under any other
21 provision of the general statutes or any special act; or (5) a regional
22 planning organization, as defined in section 4-124i of the general
23 statutes. The entity or entities establishing a regional economic
24 development district shall provide for a board of directors of the
25 district. Not more than eight regional economic development districts
26 shall be established pursuant to this subsection.

27 (b) The boundaries of such districts shall encompass one or more
28 planning regions, designated or redesignated pursuant to section 16a-
29 4a of the general statutes, or, to the extent practicable, be contiguous
30 with boundaries of former county government regions. Each regional
31 economic development district established pursuant to this section
32 shall comply with the distress requirement provisions of 13 CFR
33 301.3(a)(1).

34 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) The board of directors of a
35 regional economic development district shall comply with the
36 provisions of 13 CFR 304.2 and shall prepare and approve a
37 comprehensive economic development strategy for the district to
38 address identified economic development problems in a manner that
39 promotes economic development and opportunity, fosters effective
40 transportation access, improves workforce development, enhances and
41 protects the environment, balances resources through sound
42 management of development, and encourages responsible growth and
43 development. A comprehensive economic development strategy shall
44 contain:

45 (1) An analysis of economic and community development problems
46 and opportunities, including incorporation of any relevant material or
47 suggestions from other government-sponsored or supported plans;

48 (2) Background and history of economic development in the district,

49 with a discussion of the economy, geography, population, labor force,
50 resources and the environment;

51 (3) A discussion of community participation in the planning efforts
52 for the strategy;

53 (4) The goals and objectives for (A) taking advantage of the
54 opportunities in the district, and (B) solving the economic
55 development problems of the district;

56 (5) A plan of action, including suggested projects to implement the
57 goals and objectives set forth in subdivision (4) of this subsection; and

58 (6) Performance measures that will be used to evaluate whether and
59 to what extent such goals and objectives have been met.

60 (b) Upon approving the comprehensive economic development
61 strategy for a district, the board of directors of the district shall submit
62 the strategy to each regional planning organization, as defined in
63 section 4-124i of the general statutes, serving any portion of the
64 geographical area of such district, except if such regional planning
65 organization is not part of the regional economic development district
66 pursuant to section 1 of this act. The regional planning organizations
67 shall study the strategy and shall report their findings and
68 recommendations thereon to the district not later than ninety days
69 after the receipt of the strategy.

70 (c) After review and comment on the comprehensive economic
71 development strategy under subsection (b) of this section, the board of
72 directors of the district shall submit the strategy to the Commissioner
73 of Economic and Community Development and the Secretary of the
74 Office of Policy and Management. The secretary and the commissioner
75 shall review the strategy and, not later than sixty days after receiving
76 the strategy, shall either notify such board of directors of approval of
77 the strategy or provide the board with recommendations for
78 modifying the strategy for consistency with the state plan of

79 conservation and development adopted pursuant to chapter 297 of the
80 general statutes and the state-wide comprehensive economic
81 development strategy required under section 32-1o of the general
82 statutes. If neither the commissioner nor the secretary notifies the
83 board within such sixty days, the strategy shall be deemed to have
84 been approved. If said commissioner or secretary recommends
85 modifications, the board shall modify the strategy in accordance with
86 such recommendations and resubmit the strategy for review in the
87 same manner as for the original submission of the strategy.

88 (d) The board of directors of a regional economic development
89 district shall, annually, report to the commissioner and the secretary on
90 progress made in implementing the comprehensive economic
91 development strategy. A new or revised strategy shall be developed at
92 least once every five years. The board shall submit each new or revised
93 strategy for review and approval in accordance with the same
94 procedure as for a strategy under subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

95 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) The boards of directors of
96 regional economic development districts shall submit each adopted
97 and approved comprehensive economic development strategy to the
98 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and to the
99 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for review and
100 approval. Said commissioner and secretary may review and make
101 recommendations to the regional economic development districts for
102 consolidation of the comprehensive economic development strategies
103 to encompass not more than eight regions for the entire state. Upon
104 approval by said commissioner and secretary and with the
105 concurrence from the board of directors of the districts, the regional
106 economic development districts may submit such strategy to the
107 Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce for
108 approval pursuant to 42 USC 3121 et seq.

109 (b) A board of directors of a state approved regional economic
110 development district that adopts a comprehensive economic

111 development strategy in accordance with sections 1 and 2 of this act
112 may request the Commissioner of Economic and Community
113 Development to approve the region as an economic development
114 district. If said commissioner approves the regional economic
115 development district as an economic development district, said
116 commissioner shall recommend to the Governor that the region be
117 designated by the Governor as an economic development district.
118 Upon such designation by the Governor, the board of directors may
119 request federal designation as an economic development district from
120 the Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce
121 pursuant to 42 USC 3121 et seq. Approval by the Commissioner of
122 Economic and Community Development of the comprehensive
123 economic development strategy under section 2 of this act shall be
124 deemed to meet the requirements of 42 USC 3121 et seq.

125 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) The Commissioner of Economic
126 and Community Development may, within available appropriations,
127 make grants in amounts not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars to
128 regional economic development districts to develop, amend and
129 implement comprehensive economic development strategies under
130 sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act.

131 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) The Commissioner of Economic
132 and Community Development may, within available appropriations,
133 make priority regional grants to regional economic development
134 districts for municipal development projects and for economic
135 development and manufacturing assistance pursuant to sections 8-186
136 to 8-200, inclusive, of the general statutes and sections 32-220 to 32-234,
137 inclusive, of the general statutes.

138 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) Notwithstanding any provision
139 of the general statutes or any public or special act, projects identified in
140 comprehensive economic development strategies approved by the
141 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, the
142 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or the Assistant

143 Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce under sections
144 2 and 3 of this act shall be eligible for funding from any bond funds
145 available to the Commissioner of Economic and Community
146 Development.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec.	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To coordinate and promote regional economic development.

[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.]