



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 540**

January Session, 2013

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1048

*Senate, April 17, 2013*

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through SEN. CASSANO, S. of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT AUTHORIZING REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL ETHICS COMMISSIONS OR BOARDS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 4-124m of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

3 Except as otherwise provided in sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive,  
4 any regional council of governments shall be entitled to exercise all of  
5 the rights and authority and shall be subject to all of the  
6 responsibilities and duties provided for in the general statutes, as  
7 amended, pertaining to regional councils of elected officials and  
8 regional planning agencies. In addition to exercising such rights and  
9 authority, any regional council of governments may establish a  
10 regional ethics commission or board that may be empowered to: (1)  
11 Enact a code of ethics, (2) investigate and adjudicate any ethics  
12 complaints referred to it by member municipalities, and (3) provide  
13 advisory opinions and recommendations for sanctions for ethical

14 violations to member municipalities.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	4-124m

**PD**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

---

***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

The bill, which allows regional councils of government (COGs) to establish regional ethics commissions, has no fiscal impact. It is anticipated that this would not increase COG membership costs to municipalities.

***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 1048****AN ACT AUTHORIZING REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL ETHICS COMMISSIONS OR BOARDS.****SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes regional councils of government (COG) to establish regional ethics commissions or boards that they may authorize to (1) enact an ethics code, (2) investigate and adjudicate complaints referred by member-municipalities, and (3) provide member-municipalities with advisory opinions and recommendations for sanctioning violators.

COGs are one of three types of regional planning organizations (the others being councils of elected officials and regional planning agencies). The state's eight COGs are authorized to promote cooperative arrangements among neighboring towns related to health, safety, welfare, education, transportation, and the economy.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (04/01/2013)