



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 511

February Session, 2014

Substitute House Bill No. 5584

House of Representatives, April 10, 2014

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. ROJAS of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONALISM AND MAKING TECHNICAL CHANGES TO STATUTES CONCERNING MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTION.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 2-79a of the 2014 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) There shall be a Connecticut Advisory Commission on
5 Intergovernmental Relations. The purpose of the commission shall be
6 to enhance coordination and cooperation between the state and local
7 governments. The commission shall consist of the president pro
8 tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the
9 minority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of
10 Representatives, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
11 the Commissioners of Education, Energy and Environmental
12 Protection, and Economic and Community Development, or their

13 designees, and sixteen additional members as follows: (1) Six
14 municipal officials appointed by the Governor, four of whom shall be
15 selected from a list of nominees submitted [to him] by the Connecticut
16 Conference of Municipalities and two of whom shall be selected from a
17 list submitted by the Council of Small Towns. Two of such six officials
18 shall be from towns having populations of twenty thousand or less
19 persons, two shall be from towns having populations of more than
20 twenty thousand but less than sixty thousand persons and two shall be
21 from towns having populations of sixty thousand or more persons; (2)
22 two local public education officials appointed by the Governor, one of
23 whom shall be selected from a list of nominees submitted [to him] by
24 the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and one of whom
25 shall be selected from a list submitted by the Connecticut Association
26 of School Administrators; (3) one representative of a regional council
27 of governments or a regional planning agency appointed by the
28 Governor; [from a list of nominees submitted to him by the Regional
29 Planning Association of Connecticut;] (4) five persons who do not hold
30 elected or appointed office in state or local government, one of whom
31 shall be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be appointed
32 by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be
33 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of
34 whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate and one
35 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of
36 Representatives; (5) one representative of the Connecticut Conference
37 of Municipalities appointed by said conference; and (6) one
38 representative of the Council of Small Towns appointed by said
39 council. Each member of the commission appointed pursuant to
40 subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, shall serve for a term of two years. All
41 other members shall serve for terms [which] that are coterminous with
42 their terms of office. The Governor shall appoint a chairperson and a
43 vice-chairperson from among the commission members. Members of
44 the General Assembly may serve as gubernatorial appointees to the
45 commission. Members of the commission shall not be compensated for
46 their services but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred
47 in the performance of their duties.

48 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 2-79a of the 2014 supplement to the
49 general statutes, as amended by section 252 of public act 13-247, is
50 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
51 *January 1, 2015*):

52 (a) There shall be a Connecticut Advisory Commission on
53 Intergovernmental Relations. The purpose of the commission shall be
54 to enhance coordination and cooperation between the state and local
55 governments. The commission shall consist of the president pro
56 tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the
57 minority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of
58 Representatives, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
59 the Commissioners of Education, Energy and Environmental
60 Protection, and Economic and Community Development, or their
61 designees, and sixteen additional members as follows: (1) Six
62 municipal officials appointed by the Governor, four of whom shall be
63 selected from a list of nominees submitted [to him] by the Connecticut
64 Conference of Municipalities and two of whom shall be selected from a
65 list submitted by the Council of Small Towns. Two of such six officials
66 shall be from towns having populations of twenty thousand or less
67 persons, two shall be from towns having populations of more than
68 twenty thousand but less than sixty thousand persons and two shall be
69 from towns having populations of sixty thousand or more persons; (2)
70 two local public education officials appointed by the Governor, one of
71 whom shall be selected from a list of nominees submitted [to him] by
72 the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and one of whom
73 shall be selected from a list submitted by the Connecticut Association
74 of School Administrators; (3) one representative of a regional council
75 of governments appointed by the Governor; [from a list of nominees
76 submitted to him by the Regional Planning Association of
77 Connecticut;] (4) five persons who do not hold elected or appointed
78 office in state or local government, one of whom shall be appointed by
79 the Governor, one of whom shall be appointed by the president pro
80 tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker
81 of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by
82 the minority leader of the Senate and one of whom shall be appointed

83 by the minority leader of the House of Representatives; (5) one
84 representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities
85 appointed by said conference; and (6) one representative of the
86 Council of Small Towns appointed by said council. Each member of
87 the commission appointed pursuant to subdivisions (1) to (6),
88 inclusive, of this subsection shall serve for a term of two years. All
89 other members shall serve for terms which are coterminous with their
90 terms of office. The Governor shall appoint a chairperson and a vice-
91 chairperson from among the commission members. Members of the
92 General Assembly may serve as gubernatorial appointees to the
93 commission. Members of the commission shall not be compensated for
94 their services but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred
95 in the performance of their duties.

96 Sec. 3. Section 16a-4c of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
97 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
98 *January 1, 2015*):

99 (a) On or before January 1, [2014] 2015, and at least every twenty
100 years thereafter, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
101 within available appropriations, and in consultation with regional
102 [planning organizations, as defined in section 4-124i] councils of
103 governments organized pursuant to the provisions of sections 4-124i to
104 4-124p, inclusive, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, the
105 Connecticut Council of Small Towns, the Commissioner of
106 Transportation and the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint
107 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
108 matters relating to planning and development, shall conduct an
109 analysis of the boundaries of logical planning regions designated or
110 redesignated under section 16a-4a. As part of such analysis, the
111 secretary shall evaluate opportunities for coordinated planning and
112 the regional delivery of state and local services. Such analysis shall
113 include, but not be limited to, an evaluation of (1) economic regions,
114 including regional economic development districts established
115 pursuant to chapter 588ff; (2) comprehensive economic development
116 strategies developed by such regional economic development districts;

117 (3) labor market areas and workforce investment regions; (4) natural
118 boundaries, including watersheds, coastlines, ecosystems and habitats;
119 (5) relationships between urban, suburban and rural areas, including
120 central cities and areas outside of the state; (6) census and other
121 demographic information, including areas in the state designated by
122 the United States Census Bureau as urbanized areas and urbanized
123 clusters; (7) political boundaries, including municipal boundaries and
124 congressional, senate and assembly districts; (8) transportation
125 corridors, connectivity and boundaries, including the boundaries of
126 metropolitan planning agencies; (9) current federal, state and
127 municipal service delivery regions, including, but not limited to,
128 regions established to provide emergency, health, transportation or
129 human services; and (10) the current capacity of each regional
130 planning organization to deliver diverse state and local services and to
131 comply with the requirements of any relevant federal transportation
132 authorizing acts. Such analysis shall also establish a minimum size for
133 logical planning areas that takes into consideration the number of
134 municipalities, total population, total square mileage and whether a
135 proposed planning region will have the capacity to successfully deliver
136 sophisticated planning activities and regional services. Such analysis
137 shall consider designating rural regions in areas of the state that do not
138 have urbanized areas. The secretary may enter into such contractual
139 agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this
140 subsection. On or before October 1, 2013, said secretary shall submit a
141 report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing
142 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
143 concerning planning and development. Such report shall provide the
144 status of the analysis required pursuant to this subsection.

145 [(b) Any two or more contiguous planning regions that contain a
146 total of fourteen or more municipalities and voluntarily consolidate to
147 form a single planning region shall be exempt from redesignation
148 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, provided the Secretary of the
149 Office of Policy and Management formally redesignates such planning
150 regions prior to January 1, 2014. The secretary may, in his or her
151 discretion, waive the requirement that such redesignated planning

152 region contain a total of fourteen or more municipalities.

153 (c) (1) The secretary shall, not later than January 1, 2014, notify the
154 chief executive officer of each municipality located in a planning
155 region in which the boundaries are proposed for redesignation. If the
156 legislative body of the municipality objects to such proposed
157 redesignation, the chief executive officer of the municipality may, not
158 later than thirty days after the date of receipt of the notice of
159 redesignation, petition the secretary to attend a meeting of such
160 legislative body. The petition shall specify the location, date and time
161 of the meeting. The meeting shall be held not later than sixty days after
162 the date of the petition. The secretary shall make a reasonable attempt
163 to appear at the meeting, or at a meeting on another date within the
164 sixty-day period. If the secretary is unable to attend a meeting within
165 the sixty-day period, the secretary and the chief executive officer of the
166 municipality shall jointly schedule a date and time for the meeting,
167 provided such meeting shall be held not later than two hundred ten
168 days after the date of the notice to the chief executive officer. At such
169 meeting, the legislative body of the municipality shall inform the
170 secretary of the objections to the proposed redesignation of the
171 planning area boundaries. The secretary shall consider fully the oral
172 and written objections of the legislative body and may redesignate the
173 boundaries. Not later than sixty days after the date of the meeting, the
174 secretary shall notify the chief executive officer of the determination
175 concerning the proposed redesignation. The notice of determination
176 shall include the reasons for such determination. As used in this
177 subsection, "municipality" means a town, city or consolidated town
178 and borough; "legislative body" means the board of selectmen, town
179 council, city council, board of alderman, board of directors, board of
180 representatives or board of the warden and burgesses of a
181 municipality; and "secretary" means the Secretary of the Office of
182 Policy and Management or the designee of the secretary.]

183 [(2)] (b) Any revision to the boundaries of a planning area, based on
184 the analysis completed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or due
185 to a modification by the secretary in accordance with this subsection,

186 shall be effective on January 1, 2015.

187 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 13a-98n of the 2014 supplement to
188 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
189 thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):

190 (c) The Department of Transportation shall accept applications for
191 such state funding from any eligible recipient, based on project
192 priorities, through the appropriate regional [planning agency] council
193 of governments. Any such state funding shall be provided to the
194 recipient through guidelines developed by the Department of
195 Transportation.

196 Sec. 5. Subsection (i) of section 12-157 of the 2014 supplement to the
197 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
198 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

199 (i) (1) If the sale realizes an amount in excess of the amount needed
200 to pay all delinquent taxes, interest, penalties, fees, and costs, the
201 amount of the excess shall be held in an interest-bearing escrow
202 account separate from all other accounts of the municipality. (A) If the
203 property is redeemed prior to the expiration of the redemption period,
204 the amount held in escrow shall, within ten days of the tax collector
205 receiving notice of redemption, be turned over to the purchaser. Any
206 interest earned shall be the property of the municipality. (B) If the
207 property is not redeemed in the redemption period, the amount held
208 in escrow may be used to pay the delinquent taxes, interest, penalties,
209 fees and costs on the same or any other property of the taxpayer,
210 including personal property and motor vehicles. In the case of
211 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the tax collector shall, within ten
212 days of the expiration of the redemption period, pay to the clerk of the
213 court for the judicial district in which the property is located the
214 amount held in escrow remaining after paying the delinquent taxes,
215 interest, fees, penalties and costs owed by the taxpayer to the
216 municipality. The tax collector shall, within five days of the payment,
217 provide notice to the delinquent taxpayer, any mortgagee, lienholder,
218 or other encumbrancer of record whose interest in such property is

219 choate and is affected by the sale, by certified mail, return receipt
220 requested of the name and address of the court to which the moneys
221 were paid, the person's right to file an application with the court for
222 return of said money, and the amount of money paid to the court.

223 (2) If the tax collector pays to the court any moneys pursuant to
224 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the delinquent
225 taxpayer, any mortgagee, lienholder or other encumbrancer whose
226 interest in such property is choate and is affected by the sale may,
227 within ninety days of the date the tax collector paid the moneys to the
228 court, file an application with the court for return of the proceeds. Any
229 person may make an application for payment of moneys deposited in
230 court as provided for in this subsection to the superior court for the
231 judicial district in which the property that is the subject of the
232 proceedings referred to is located, or if said court is not in session to
233 any judge thereof, for a determination of the equity of the parties
234 having an interest in such moneys. Notice of such application shall be
235 served in the same manner as to commence a civil action on all persons
236 having an interest of record in such property on the date the collector's
237 deed is recorded, provided the municipality shall not be a party to
238 such action without its consent. The court or judge upon such motion
239 or upon its own motion may appoint a state referee to hear the facts
240 and to make a determination of the equity of the parties in such
241 moneys. Such referee, after providing at least ten days' notice to the
242 parties interested of the time and place of hearing, shall hear the
243 applicant and any parties interested, take such testimonies as such
244 referee deems material and determine the equities of the parties having
245 a record interest in such moneys and immediately report to the court
246 or judge. The report shall contain a detailed statement of findings by
247 the referee, sufficient to enable the court to determine the
248 considerations upon which the referee based his conclusions. The
249 report may be rejected for any irregular or improper conduct in the
250 performance of the duties of such referee. If the report is rejected, the
251 court or judge shall appoint another referee to make such
252 determination and report. If the report is accepted, such determination
253 of the equities shall be conclusive upon all parties given notice of such

254 hearing, subject to appeal to the Appellate Court. If no appeal to the
255 Appellate Court is filed within the time allowed by law, or if one is
256 filed and the proceedings have terminated in a final judgment
257 determining the amount due to each party, the clerk shall send a
258 certified copy of the statement of compensation and of the judgment to
259 the prevailing party or parties, as the case may be, which shall, upon
260 receipt thereof, pay such parties the amount due them as
261 compensation.

262 (3) If no application is filed with the court, any moneys held by the
263 court shall escheat to the state pursuant to the provisions of part III of
264 chapter 32.

265 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 12-130 of the 2014 supplement to the
266 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
267 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

268 (b) The mill rate to be inserted in the statement of state aid to
269 municipalities required by subsection (a) of this section shall be
270 computed on the total estimated revenues required to fund the
271 estimated expenditures of the municipality exclusive of assistance
272 received or anticipated from the state.

273 Sec. 7. Section 390 of public act 13-247 is repealed and the following
274 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):

275 Sections 4-124c to 4-124f, inclusive, 4-124h, 4-124m, [4-124o,] 8-31a,
276 8-32a, 8-33a, 8-34a, 8-36a, 8-37a and 8-37b of the general statutes are
277 repealed.

278 Sec. 8. Section 4-124o of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
279 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
280 *October 1, 2014*):

281 [The planning duties and responsibilities of a regional council of
282 governments, including the making of a plan of development pursuant
283 to section 8-35a, may be carried out by the council or a regional
284 planning commission, acting on behalf of and as a subdivision of the

285 council.] A regional council of governments may, through its bylaws,
286 establish a regional planning commission to carry out the planning
287 duties and responsibilities of such regional council, including the
288 making of a plan of development pursuant to section 8-35a and the
289 issuance of advisory opinions where authorized or required by the
290 general statutes. Any such regional planning commission shall serve in
291 an advisory capacity and any recommendation from such regional
292 planning commission shall be endorsed by the regional council of
293 governments before becoming effective, except such endorsement shall
294 not be required for any report issued pursuant to section 8-3b or 8-26b.
295 Members of such regional planning commission shall be appointed
296 and serve in accordance with the bylaws, provided fifty per cent of the
297 members of such regional planning commission shall serve
298 concurrently as commissioners of member planning commissions,
299 zoning commissions or combined planning and zoning commissions.
300 Each member of such regional council shall be entitled to a
301 representative on the regional planning commission who shall be an
302 elector of such member. [and on its planning commission. Such
303 representative shall be appointed by such planning commission, with
304 the concurrence of the appointing authority of such member. Each
305 member may also appoint an alternate representative who shall be an
306 elector of such member and who shall be appointed by its planning
307 commission, with the concurrence of the appointing authority of such
308 member. Such alternate representative shall, when the representative
309 of the member from which he or she was appointed is absent, have all
310 the powers and duties of such representative. Each regional planning
311 commission representative shall be entitled to one vote in the affairs of
312 such commission but shall not otherwise be entitled to vote in the
313 affairs of the council. All matters referred to the council which by
314 statute or otherwise are required to be referred to and considered by a
315 regional planning agency shall be considered and commented upon by
316 the council or regional planning commission in accordance with
317 procedures recommended by such commission and adopted by the
318 council with the concurrence of such commission. The council shall
319 have the authority, at the request of a party having referred any such

320 matter to the council's attention, to review and revise, in whole or in
321 part, the comments and recommendations of the regional planning
322 commission as to such matter. If at any time the council is deemed a
323 regional council of elected officials under subsection (d) of section 4-
324 124l, the existence of such regional planning commission shall
325 terminate forthwith.]

326 Sec. 9. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The sum of \$2,620,448 is appropriated
327 to the Department of Economic and Community Development, from
328 the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, for the
329 purpose of providing a grant to the Capitol Region Council of
330 Governments, in partnership with the Connecticut Center for
331 Advanced Technology, to conduct demonstration projects that provide
332 value to municipalities connected to the state-wide high speed, flexible
333 network developed pursuant to section 4d-80 of the general statutes as
334 follows:

335 (1) The sum of \$559,250 for the purpose of developing a regional
336 data and disaster recovery center to (A) protect and store municipal
337 data at an off-site location so that such data is easily recoverable in the
338 event of an emergency or disaster; (B) provide dedicated information
339 technology staff and software to facilitate application sharing; and (C)
340 serve as an entry point for regional shared services;

341 (2) The sum of \$101,000 for the purpose of developing a pilot
342 program to allow up to six municipalities to store equipment in the
343 regional data and disaster recovery center in order to facilitate live
344 Internet streaming of municipal meetings. As part of such pilot
345 program, the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology shall
346 research less expensive and more mobile equipment alternatives for
347 municipalities to use to broadcast municipal meetings over the
348 Internet. Such pilot program may include any municipality in any
349 regional council of governments that is connected to the state-wide
350 high speed, flexible network developed pursuant to section 4d-80 of
351 the general statutes, willing to participate in such program and capable
352 of being a successful participant in such program;

353 (3) The sum of \$603,500 for the purpose of developing an electronic
354 document management system pilot program for up to six
355 municipalities to (A) facilitate municipal conversion to electronic
356 information in lieu of paper documents and files; (B) streamline file
357 searches and storage; and (C) facilitate the long-term sharing of
358 systems and software services between municipalities. Such pilot
359 program may include any municipality in any regional council of
360 governments that is connected to the state-wide high speed, flexible
361 network developed pursuant to section 4d-80 of the general statutes,
362 willing to participate in such program and capable of being a
363 successful participant in such program;

364 (4) The sum of \$95,200 for the purpose of developing a voice over
365 Internet protocol pilot program to provide advanced communications
366 services, including web site and video conferencing, to up to six
367 participating municipalities. Such pilot program may include any
368 municipality in any regional council of governments that is connected
369 to the state-wide high speed, flexible network developed pursuant to
370 section 4d-80 of the general statutes, willing to participate in such
371 program and capable of being a successful participant in such
372 program;

373 (5) The sum of \$105,748 for the purpose of developing a hosting
374 services pilot program to provide customized, host software solutions
375 and a virtual environment on which to store data to up to seven
376 participating municipalities. Such pilot program may include any
377 municipality in any regional council of governments that is connected
378 to the state-wide high speed, flexible network developed pursuant to
379 section 4d-80 of the general statutes, willing to participate in such
380 program and capable of being a successful participant in such
381 program;

382 (6) The sum of \$750,000 for the purpose of developing a pilot
383 program in up to three municipalities to create software to coordinate
384 board of education and municipal payrolls with uniform charts of
385 accounts for boards of education and municipalities. Such pilot

386 program may include any municipality in any regional council of
387 governments that is connected to the state-wide high-speed, flexible
388 network developed pursuant to section 4d-80 of the general statutes,
389 willing to participate in such program and capable of being a
390 successful participant in such program; and

391 (7) The sum of \$405,750 for the purpose of developing an online
392 portal for municipal human resources services. Such portal shall
393 include municipal wage and classification information and templates.

394 Sec. 10. Section 4-66k of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
395 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
396 *from passage*):

397 (a) There is established an account to be known as the "regional
398 planning incentive account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing
399 account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any
400 moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the
401 account shall be expended by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
402 Management in accordance with subsection (b) of this section for the
403 purposes of first providing funding to regional planning organizations
404 in accordance with the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this
405 section and then to providing grants under the regional performance
406 incentive program established pursuant to section 4-124s.

407 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, funds from the regional
408 planning incentive account shall be distributed to each regional
409 planning organization, as defined in section 4-124i, revision of 1958,
410 revised to January 1, 2013, in the amount of one hundred twenty-five
411 thousand dollars. Any regional council of governments that is
412 comprised of any two or more regional planning organizations that
413 voluntarily [consolidate] consolidated on or before December 31, 2013,
414 shall receive an additional payment in an amount equal to the amount
415 the regional planning organizations would have received if such
416 regional planning organizations had not voluntarily consolidated. Any
417 regional council of governments that is comprised of municipalities
418 from two or more regional planning organizations that voluntarily

419 consolidated on or before December 31, 2013, shall receive an
420 additional payment in an amount equal to the pro rata share for each
421 municipality, based on population information from the most recent
422 federal decennial census, of the amount the regional planning
423 organizations would have received on behalf of such municipalities if
424 such municipalities had not voluntarily consolidated, provided such
425 payment shall be made only to regional councils of governments that
426 consolidated with municipalities that did not comprise an entire
427 regional planning organization.

428 (c) Beginning in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and annually
429 thereafter, funds from the regional planning incentive account shall be
430 distributed to each regional council of governments formed pursuant
431 to section 4-124j, in the amount of one hundred twenty-five thousand
432 dollars plus fifty cents per capita, using population information from
433 the most recent federal decennial census. Any regional council of
434 governments that is comprised of any two or more regional planning
435 organizations, as defined in section 4-124i, revision of 1958, revised to
436 January 1, 2013, that voluntarily consolidated on or before December
437 31, 2013, shall receive a payment in the amount of one hundred
438 twenty-five thousand dollars for each such regional planning
439 organization that voluntarily consolidated on or before said date. Any
440 regional council of governments that is comprised of municipalities
441 from two or more regional planning organizations that voluntarily
442 consolidated on or before December 31, 2013, shall receive a payment
443 in an amount equal to the pro rata share for each municipality, based
444 on population information from the most recent federal decennial
445 census, of the amount the regional planning organizations would have
446 received on behalf of such municipalities if such municipalities had not
447 voluntarily consolidated, provided such payment shall be made only
448 to regional councils of governments that consolidated with
449 municipalities that did not comprise an entire regional planning
450 organization.

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

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	2-79a(a)
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2015</i>	2-79a(a)
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2015</i>	16a-4c
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2015</i>	13a-98n(c)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	12-157(i)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	12-130(b)
Sec. 7	<i>January 1, 2015</i>	PA 13-247, Sec. 390
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	4-124o
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	4-66k

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Department of Economic & Community Development	GF - Cost	\$2,620,448	None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill appropriates \$2,620,448 in FY 15 for the purpose of a grant to the Capitol Region Council of Governments to conduct demonstration projects pertaining to the state-wide high speed network. sHB 5030, the FY 15 revised budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, does not include an appropriation for this purpose.

Total appropriations contained in sHB 5030, the FY 15 revised budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, result in the FY 15 budget being under the spending cap by approximately \$700,000. The appropriations contained in the bill would result in the FY 15 budget being over the spending cap by approximately \$1.9 million.

The bill also makes changes to the way grants from the Regional Performance Incentive Account (RPIA) are funded. This has no fiscal impact to the RPIA as it shifts funding among Councils of Government, based on the movement of municipalities among them.

The Out Years

Section 9 appropriates funding in FY 15 only. There is no fiscal

impact in the out years.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5584

AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONALISM AND MAKING TECHNICAL CHANGES TO STATUTES CONCERNING MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTION.

SUMMARY:

This bill:

1. appropriates \$2,620,448 from the General Fund to the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for a grant to the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) and the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) to create Nutmeg Network-related services and demonstration projects;
2. entitles regional councils of government (COG) to additional payments from the regional planning incentive account if they accepted members from a different regional planning organization (RPO) before January 1, 2014;
3. requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) Secretary to conduct a planning region analysis and redesignation by January 1, 2015 (see COMMENT);
4. makes changes to the statute concerning COGs' regional planning commissions (RPC);
5. eliminates the requirement that the governor's appointee to the Connecticut Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations be nominated by the Regional Planning Association of Connecticut; and
6. makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, unless noted otherwise below

§ 9 — NUTMEG NETWORK SERVICES AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

The bill appropriates \$2,620,448 in FY 15 to DECD for a grant to CRCOG in partnership with CCAT for projects related to the state-wide high speed network (Nutmeg Network). Of this grant, CRCOG and CCAT must use:

1. \$559,250 to develop a regional data and disaster recovery (RDDR) center to (a) protect and store municipal data at an off-site location, (b) provide dedicated information technology staff and software to facilitate application sharing, and (c) serve as a regional shared services entry point and
2. \$405,750 to develop an online portal for municipal human resources services, including wage and classification information and templates.

The bill also requires CRCOG and CCAT to develop five pilot programs. Municipalities are eligible to participate in these pilot programs if they are (1) members of any COG, (2) connected to the Nutmeg Network, (3) willing to participate, and (4) capable of participating successfully. The pilot programs are funded as follows:

1. \$101,000 for (a) developing a program allowing up to six municipalities to store equipment in the RDDR center to facilitate live Internet streaming of municipal meetings and (b) CCAT to research less expensive and more mobile equipment alternatives for broadcasting municipal meetings over the Internet;
2. \$603,500 for developing an electronic document management system program for up to six municipalities to (a) facilitate conversion to electronic document storage, (b) streamline file searches and storage, and (c) facilitate long-term systems and software services sharing between municipalities;

3. \$95,200 for developing a voice-over Internet protocol program to provide advanced communications services, including website and video conferencing, to up to six municipalities;
4. \$105,748 for developing a hosting services program for up to seven municipalities providing customized, host software solutions and a virtual data storage environment; and
5. \$750,000 for creating software for up to three municipalities that coordinates board of education and municipal payrolls with their uniform charts of accounts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

§ 10 — COG FUNDING

The bill makes changes to the funding formula PA 13-247 established for RPOs. Under the bill, a COG that added one or more, but not all, of the member municipalities of another RPO before January 1, 2014 is entitled to an additional payment, as shown in Table 1. Under the funding formula PA 13-247 established, COGs are only eligible for an additional payment if two or more RPOs, and all of their members, consolidated into one COG.

Table 1: Funding Formula for RPOs

	<i>FY 14</i>	<i>FY 15 and Beyond</i>	<i>New or Existing Provision</i>
Base Amount each RPO receives	\$125,000	\$125,000	Existing
Additional Amount Per Person	\$0	50¢, based on most recent census	Existing
Additional payment for consolidated COGs	Amount that RPOs would have received if they had not voluntarily consolidated before January 1, 2014	\$125,000 for each RPO that voluntarily consolidated before January 1, 2014	Existing
Additional payment for COGs that add some, but not all, of another RPO's members	Pro rata share for each added member, based on most recent census, of the amount the member's	Pro rata share for each added member, based on most recent census, of the amount the member's	New

	former RPO would have received on behalf of such municipality if it had not voluntarily consolidated	former RPO would have received on behalf of such municipality if it had not voluntarily consolidated	
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§ 3 — PLANNING REGION ANALYSIS AND REDESIGNATION

By law, at least every 20 years, the OPM secretary must analyze planning region boundaries and redesignate them if necessary. The bill resets the date by which the secretary’s planning region analysis must be completed from January 1, 2014 to January 1, 2015 (see COMMENT). (As required under current law, the secretary completed such an analysis and designation before the January 1, 2014 deadline.)

By law, revised local planning regions will go into effect on January 1, 2015 (CGS § 16a-4c).

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2015

§§ 7 & 8 — REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

By law, a COG may carry out its planning duties and responsibilities through an RPC, which it may establish through its bylaws. The bill makes several changes to the role of RPCs, including (1) specifying that they act in advisory capacity and (2) requiring any RPC recommendation to be endorsed by the COG before becoming effective, except for recommendations on proposed subdivisions and zone or zone use changes.

By law, each COG member municipality is entitled to one seat on an RPC. Under current law, RPC members are appointed by member municipalities’ planning commissions and must (1) be electors of those municipalities and (2) serve on the municipalities’ planning commissions. The bill instead allows a COG’s bylaws to establish the appointment process, as long as at least 50% of RPC members serve concurrently on a planning, zoning, or planning and zoning commission.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014, except for a related conforming

change, which is effective January 1, 2015.

§ 1 — GOVERNOR’S APPOINTEE TO THE CONNECTICUT ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Under current law, the governor appoints an individual representing a COG or regional planning agency (RPA) to the Connecticut Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations from a list of nominees prepared by the Regional Planning Association of Connecticut. The bill eliminates the requirement that the appointee come from the association’s list. (The association is now called the Connecticut Association of Regional Planning Organizations.)

§§ 2-6 — TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES

The bill makes conforming changes related to the (1) OPM secretary’s planning region analysis and (2) elimination of RPAs and regional councils of elected officials (CEO) after January 1, 2015 (§§ 2, 3, & 4).

The bill also makes several technical changes (§§ 5 & 6).

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2015, except for the technical changes, which are effective on passage.

BACKGROUND

RPOs

Within planning regions, the three types of regional planning organizations currently allowed by law are RPAs, CEOs, and COGs. PA 13-247 requires CEOs and RPAs to reestablish themselves as COGs by January 1, 2015.

COMMENT

Planning Region Analysis Deadline is the Date the Requirement Becomes Effective

The bill requires the OPM secretary, by January 1, 2015, to analyze planning region boundaries and redesignate them if necessary. This provision becomes effective January 1, 2015, giving the secretary only

one day to complete the analysis and redesignation. By law, revised local planning regions will go into effect on January 1, 2015.

Current law requires the analysis and redesignation to occur by January 1, 2014 (this deadline was met).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15 Nay 5 (03/25/2014)