



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

***Raised Bill No. 5602***

LCO No. 2613



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:  
(PD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONALISM.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 7-148v of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any municipal charter or any  
4 special act to the contrary, any municipality may, by ordinance,  
5 establish requirements for competitive bidding for the award of any  
6 contract or the purchase of any real or personal property by the  
7 municipality. Such ordinance may provide that, except as otherwise  
8 required by any provision of the general statutes, sealed bidding shall  
9 not be required for contracts or purchases having a value less than or  
10 equal to an amount established in the ordinance, which amount shall  
11 not be greater than twenty-five thousand dollars. Nothing in this  
12 section shall be deemed to invalidate any ordinance enacted by a  
13 municipality prior to October 1, 1989. Nothing in this section and no  
14 ordinance adopted pursuant to this section shall be construed to limit  
15 the ability of a municipality to enter into a contract pursuant to section  
16 4a-53a.

17 (b) Any municipality may purchase equipment, supplies, materials  
18 or services from a person who has a contract to sell such goods or  
19 services to other state governments, political subdivisions of the state,  
20 nonprofit organizations or public purchasing consortia available  
21 through a regional educational service center or regional council of  
22 governments, in accordance with the provisions of such contract.

23 Sec. 2. Section 4-124s of the general statutes is repealed and the  
24 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

25 (a) For purposes of this section:

26 (1) "Regional council of governments" means any such council  
27 organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive;

28 (2) "Municipality" means a town, city or consolidated town and  
29 borough;

30 (3) "Legislative body" means the board of selectmen, town council,  
31 city council, board of alderman, board of directors, board of  
32 representatives or board of the warden and burgesses of a  
33 municipality; [and]

34 (4) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
35 Management or the designee of the secretary; and

36 (5) "Regional educational service center" has the same meaning as  
37 provided in section 10-282.

38 (b) There is established a regional performance incentive program  
39 that shall be administered by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
40 Management. On or before December 31, 2011, and annually  
41 thereafter, any regional council of governments, any two or more  
42 municipalities acting through a regional council of governments, any  
43 economic development district, any regional educational service center  
44 or any combination thereof may submit a proposal to the secretary for:  
45 (1) The joint provision of any service that one or more participating

46 municipalities of such council, educational service center or agency  
47 currently provide but which is not provided on a regional basis, (2) a  
48 planning study regarding the joint provision of any service on a  
49 regional basis, or (3) shared information technology services. A copy of  
50 said proposal shall be sent to the legislators representing said  
51 participating municipalities.

52 (c) (1) A regional council of governments, [or] an economic  
53 development district or a regional educational service center shall  
54 submit each proposal in the form and manner the secretary prescribes  
55 and shall, at a minimum, provide the following information for each  
56 proposal: (A) Service description; (B) the explanation of the need for  
57 such service; (C) the method of delivering such service on a regional  
58 basis; (D) the organization that would be responsible for regional  
59 service delivery; (E) a description of the population that would be  
60 served; (F) the manner in which regional service delivery will achieve  
61 economies of scale; (G) the amount by which participating  
62 municipalities will reduce their mill rates as a result of savings  
63 realized; (H) a cost benefit analysis for the provision of the service by  
64 each participating municipality and by the entity submitting the  
65 proposal; (I) a plan of implementation for delivery of the service on a  
66 regional basis; (J) a resolution endorsing such proposal approved by  
67 the legislative body of each participating municipality; and (K) an  
68 explanation of the potential legal obstacles, if any, to the regional  
69 provision of the service.

70 (2) The secretary shall review each proposal and shall award grants  
71 for proposals the secretary determines best meet the requirements of  
72 this section. In awarding such grants, the secretary shall give priority  
73 to a proposal submitted by (A) any entity specified in subsection (a) of  
74 this section that includes participation of all of the member  
75 municipalities of such entity, and which may increase the purchasing  
76 power of participating municipalities or provide a cost savings  
77 initiative resulting in a decrease in expenses of such municipalities,  
78 allowing such municipalities to lower property taxes, and (B) any

79 economic development district.

80 (d) On or before December 31, 2013, and annually thereafter, in  
81 addition to any proposal submitted pursuant to this section, any  
82 municipality, [or] regional council of governments or regional  
83 educational service center may apply to the secretary for a grant to  
84 fund: (1) Operating costs associated with connecting to the state-wide  
85 high speed, flexible network developed pursuant to section 4d-80,  
86 including the costs to connect at the same rate as other government  
87 entities served by such network; and (2) capital cost associated with  
88 connecting to such network, including expenses associated with  
89 building out the internal fiber network connections required to connect  
90 to such network, provided the secretary shall make any such grant  
91 available in accordance with the two-year schedule by which the  
92 Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology recommends connecting  
93 each municipality, [and] regional council of governments and regional  
94 educational service center to such network. Any municipality, [or]  
95 regional council of governments or regional educational service center  
96 shall submit each application in the form and manner the secretary  
97 prescribes.

98 (e) The secretary shall submit to the Governor and the joint standing  
99 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
100 relating to finance, revenue and bonding a report on the grants  
101 provided pursuant to this section. Each such report shall include  
102 information on the amount of each grant, and the potential of each  
103 grant for leveraging other public and private investments. The  
104 secretary shall submit a report for the fiscal year commencing July 1,  
105 2011, not later than February 1, 2012, and shall submit a report for each  
106 subsequent fiscal year not later than the first day of March in such  
107 fiscal year. Such reports shall include the property tax reductions  
108 achieved by means of the program established pursuant to this section.

109 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 8-23 of the 2016 supplement to the  
110 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

111 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

112 (d) In preparing such plan, the commission or any special  
113 committee shall consider the following: (1) The community  
114 development action plan of the municipality, if any, (2) the need for  
115 affordable housing, (3) the need for protection of existing and potential  
116 public surface and ground drinking water supplies, (4) the use of  
117 cluster development and other development patterns to the extent  
118 consistent with soil types, terrain and infrastructure capacity within  
119 the municipality, (5) the state plan of conservation and development  
120 adopted pursuant to chapter 297, (6) the regional plan of conservation  
121 and development adopted pursuant to section 8-35a, as amended by  
122 this act, (7) physical, social, economic and governmental conditions  
123 and trends, (8) the needs of the municipality including, but not limited  
124 to, human resources, education, health, housing, recreation, social  
125 services, public utilities, public protection, transportation and  
126 circulation and cultural and interpersonal communications, (9) the  
127 objectives of energy-efficient patterns of development, the use of solar  
128 and other renewable forms of energy and energy conservation, (10)  
129 protection and preservation of agriculture, [and] (11) sea level change  
130 scenarios published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
131 Administration in Technical Report OAR CPO-1, and (12) the need to  
132 promote regional efficiencies in education and educational  
133 opportunities.

134 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 8-35a of the general statutes is  
135 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
136 *October 1, 2016*):

137 (a) At least once every ten years, each regional council of  
138 governments shall make a plan of conservation and development for  
139 its area of operation, showing its recommendations for the general use  
140 of the area including land use, housing, principal highways and  
141 freeways, bridges, airports, parks, playgrounds, recreational areas,  
142 schools, public institutions, public utilities, agriculture and such other

143 matters as, in the opinion of the council, will be beneficial to the area.  
144 Any regional plan so developed shall be based on studies of physical,  
145 social, economic, educational and governmental conditions and trends  
146 and shall be designed to promote with the greatest efficiency and  
147 economy the coordinated development of its area of operation and the  
148 general welfare and prosperity of its people. Such plan may encourage  
149 energy-efficient patterns of development, the use of solar and other  
150 renewable forms of energy, and energy conservation. Such plan shall  
151 be designed to promote abatement of the pollution of the waters and  
152 air of the region. The regional plan shall identify areas where it is  
153 feasible and prudent (1) to have compact, transit accessible, pedestrian-  
154 oriented mixed use development patterns and land reuse, and (2) to  
155 promote such development patterns and land reuse and shall note any  
156 inconsistencies with the following growth management principles: (A)  
157 Redevelopment and revitalization of regional centers and areas of  
158 mixed land uses with existing or planned physical infrastructure; (B)  
159 expansion of housing opportunities and design choices to  
160 accommodate a variety of household types and needs; (C)  
161 concentration of development around transportation nodes and along  
162 major transportation corridors to support the viability of  
163 transportation options and land reuse; (D) conservation and  
164 restoration of the natural environment, cultural and historical  
165 resources and traditional rural lands; (E) protection of environmental  
166 assets critical to public health and safety; [and] (F) integration of  
167 planning across all levels of government to address issues on a local,  
168 regional and state-wide basis; and (G) promote regional efficiencies in  
169 education and educational opportunities. The plan of each region  
170 contiguous to Long Island Sound shall be designed to reduce hypoxia,  
171 pathogens, toxic contaminants and floatable debris in Long Island  
172 Sound.

173 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 16a-27 of the general statutes is  
174 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
175 *October 1, 2016*):

176 (b) Any revision made after August 20, 2003, shall take into account  
177 (1) economic and community development needs and patterns of  
178 commerce, [and] (2) linkages of affordable housing objectives and land  
179 use objectives with transportation systems, and (3) the need to  
180 promote regional efficiencies in education and educational  
181 opportunities.

182 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of the  
183 general statutes or any municipal charter or special act to the contrary,  
184 any municipality may enter into a partnership with one or more  
185 municipalities to share the services of one or more resident state  
186 troopers or other law enforcement personnel.

187 Sec. 7. Section 4-66k of the general statutes is repealed and the  
188 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

189 (a) There is established an account to be known as the "regional  
190 planning incentive account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing  
191 account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any  
192 moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the  
193 account shall be expended by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
194 Management in accordance with subsection (b) of this section for the  
195 purposes of first providing funding to regional planning organizations  
196 in accordance with the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this  
197 section, [and] then for the purposes of subsection (d) of this section  
198 and then to providing grants under the regional performance incentive  
199 program established pursuant to section 4-124s, as amended by this  
200 act.

201 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, funds from the regional  
202 planning incentive account shall be distributed to each regional  
203 planning organization, as defined in section 4-124i, revision of 1958,  
204 revised to January 1, 2013, in the amount of one hundred twenty-five  
205 thousand dollars. Any regional council of governments that is  
206 comprised of any two or more regional planning organizations that

207 voluntarily consolidate on or before December 31, 2013, shall receive  
208 an additional payment in an amount equal to the amount the regional  
209 planning organizations would have received if such regional planning  
210 organizations had not voluntarily consolidated.

211 (c) Beginning in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and annually  
212 thereafter, funds from the regional planning incentive account shall be  
213 distributed to each regional council of governments formed pursuant  
214 to section 4-124j, in the amount of one hundred twenty-five thousand  
215 dollars plus fifty cents per capita, using population information from  
216 the most recent federal decennial census. Any regional council of  
217 governments that is comprised of any two or more regional planning  
218 organizations, as defined in section 4-124i, revision of 1958, revised to  
219 January 1, 2013, that voluntarily consolidated on or before December  
220 31, 2013, shall receive a payment in the amount of one hundred  
221 twenty-five thousand dollars for each such regional planning  
222 organization that voluntarily consolidated on or before said date.

223 (d) Beginning in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and annually  
224 thereafter, funds from the regional planning incentive account shall be  
225 distributed to the Auditors of Public Accounts to audit private  
226 providers of special education services, in accordance with section 2-  
227 90, and sections 10-91g to 10-91i, inclusive.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	7-148v
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	4-124s
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	8-23(d)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	8-35a(a)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	16a-27(b)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	4-66k

**Statement of Purpose:**

To promote regionalism.

*[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.]*