

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 5602**

LCO No. 3413

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 Section 7-148v of the general statutes is repealed and the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) Notwithstanding the provisions of the general statutes or any
18 municipal charter, special act or ordinance, any municipality may
19 purchase equipment, supplies, materials or services from a person who

20 has a contract to sell such goods or services to other state governments,
21 political subdivisions of the state, nonprofit organizations or public
22 purchasing consortia available through a regional educational service
23 center or regional council of governments, in accordance with the
24 provisions of such contract.

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 Section 4-124s of the general statutes is repealed and the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

27 (a) For purposes of this section:

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

30 (2) "Municipality" means a town, city or consolidated town and
31 borough;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

102 (e) The secretary shall submit to the Governor and the joint standing
103 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
104 relating to finance, revenue and bonding a report on the grants
105 provided pursuant to this section. Each such report shall include
106 information on the amount of each grant, and the potential of each
107 grant for leveraging other public and private investments. The
108 secretary shall submit a report for the fiscal year commencing July 1,
109 2011, not later than February 1, 2012, and shall submit a report for each
110 subsequent fiscal year not later than the first day of March in such
111 fiscal year. Such reports shall include the property tax reductions
112 achieved by means of the program established pursuant to this section.

113 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions of the
114 general statutes or any municipal charter or special act to the contrary,
115 any municipality may enter into a partnership with one or more
116 municipalities to share the services of one or more resident state

117 troopers or other law enforcement personnel.

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

120 (a) There is established an account to be known as the "regional
121 planning incentive account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing
122 account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any
123 moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the
124 account shall be expended by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
125 Management in accordance with subsection (b) of this section for the
126 purposes of first providing funding to regional planning organizations
127 in accordance with the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this
128 section, [and] then for the purposes of subsection (d) of this section
129 and then to providing grants under the regional performance incentive
130 program established pursuant to section 4-124s, as amended by this
131 act.

132 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, funds from the regional
133 planning incentive account shall be distributed to each regional
134 planning organization, as defined in section 4-124i, revision of 1958,
135 revised to January 1, 2013, in the amount of one hundred twenty-five
136 thousand dollars. Any regional council of governments that is
137 comprised of any two or more regional planning organizations that
138 voluntarily consolidate on or before December 31, 2013, shall receive
139 an additional payment in an amount equal to the amount the regional
140 planning organizations would have received if such regional planning
141 organizations had not voluntarily consolidated.

142 (c) Beginning in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and annually
143 thereafter, funds from the regional planning incentive account shall be
144 distributed to each regional council of governments formed pursuant
145 to section 4-124j, in the amount of one hundred twenty-five thousand
146 dollars plus fifty cents per capita, using population information from
147 the most recent federal decennial census. Any regional council of
148 governments that is comprised of any two or more regional planning
149 organizations, as defined in section 4-124i, revision of 1958, revised to

150 January 1, 2013, that voluntarily consolidated on or before December
151 31, 2013, shall receive a payment in the amount of one hundred
152 twenty-five thousand dollars for each such regional planning
153 organization that voluntarily consolidated on or before said date.

154 (d) Beginning in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and annually
155 thereafter, funds from the regional planning incentive account shall be
156 distributed to the Auditors of Public Accounts to audit private
157 providers of special education services, in accordance with section 2-
158 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>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	4-66k