



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 22, 2017

***Benjamin Barnes
Secretary, Office of Policy and Management***

Testimony Regarding House Bills No. 6919, No. 6920, No. 6924, No. 6942, and No. 6948

Senator Cassano, Senator Logan, Representative Lemar and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on the following bills:

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) supports HB 6919, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF STATE GRANTS-IN-AID AND REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM FUNDS", which would eliminate the requirement that thirty percent of each regional council of governments' annual regional services grant be allocated to regional education service centers.

OPM generally supports HB 6920, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE FURTHERANCE OF REGIONALISM", which would expand the roles of regional councils of governments. However, OPM is concerned about item (7), which would permit regional councils of governments to impose a fee for the use of its geographic information systems. OPM has awarded significant grant amounts to several regional councils of governments to develop and enhance their geographic information systems through the Regional Performance Incentive Program. OPM does not support allowing regional councils of governments to charge fees for access to data that was developed through the benefit of state assistance and intended to be in the public domain.

OPM opposes HB 6924, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE EVALUATION OF MUNICIPAL REGIONALIZATION," which would require OPM to implement a regionalization evaluation tool, among other things. This would require additional staff resources to implement.

OPM opposes HB 6942, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM," which would revise the requirements governing the submission of proposals under the Regional Performance Incentive Program and require the OPM Secretary to establish priority funding project designations. The OPM secretary is already authorized to establish program guidelines pertaining to the submission of proposals and any prioritization of such proposals.

OPM generally supports HB 6948, "AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT," and recommends that the proposed amendments correlate with the new requirements for Regional Economic Development Districts in *C.G.S. 588ff*.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on these proposals. If you should require any additional information, please contact Jennifer Putetti at Jennifer.putetti@ct.gov.