
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6939

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPAL CULTURAL DISTRICTS.

SUMMARY

The bill allows municipalities, by vote of their legislative bodies, to establish one or more cultural districts to promote the public's educational, cultural, economic, and general welfare by marketing arts and culture attractions, encouraging artists and artistic and cultural enterprises, and promoting tourism. Districts cannot extend beyond the boundaries of the establishing municipality. Municipalities' legislative bodies may appropriate funds to carry out the bill's purposes.

Cultural districts must comply with standards and criteria established by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). (The bill does not require the department to establish such standards and criteria.)

Each municipality establishing a district must also establish a cultural district commission, whose membership is decided by the municipal legislative body in consultation with the DECD commissioner. This includes the number of members, their terms, how they are appointed, and how vacancies are filled.

With the legislative body's approval, commissions may exercise any power and perform any duty necessary or desirable to carry out the bill's purposes, including:

1. consulting and collaborating with the DECD commissioner and regional service organizations for assistance with marketing, advocacy, and other efforts, and
2. applying for, soliciting, or accepting any grant, contribution, gift,

bequest, devise, or other donation.

Under the bill, “municipality” means a town, city, borough, consolidated town and city, or consolidated town and borough. “Regional service organizations” are organizations DECD designates as regional providers of arts and cultural leadership for the support of state and municipal economies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/25/2019)