

---

## OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6939 (as amended by House "A")\*

### ***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, and the process for making appointments and filling vacancies.

The bill requires each municipality's legislative body to authorize these commissions to 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 to support the state and municipal economies.

\*House Amendment “A” requires, rather than allows, municipal legislative bodies to authorize cultural district commissioners to exercise powers and duties desirable or necessary to carry out the bill’s purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/25/2019)