



**Testimony
Betsy Gara
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Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Education Committee
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The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST), which represents 110 smaller communities throughout Connecticut, ***supports with revisions* Section 6 of SB-1069, AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.**

Section 6 of the bill requires the state Department of Education to conduct a study concerning the authorization of towns and cooperative arrangements to be considered a local education agency for purposes of regional cooperation and in order to maximize efficiencies and cost-savings without establishing a regional school district.

COST supports efforts to facilitate the use of shared service/regional approaches to assist towns and boards of education in controlling education spending. Towns should be encouraged to pursue approaches that will maximize efficiencies. Allowing towns to act as and be regarded as a local education agency without becoming a regional school district makes a lot of sense and should be supported.

Rather than require a time-consuming study, COST urges lawmakers to revise the law to authorize towns and cooperative arrangements to become a local education agency.

Founded in 1975, COST is the state's only organization dedicated exclusively to advocating on behalf of the interests of Connecticut's smaller towns in the legislative process.