



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 575

January Session, 2019

House Bill No. 6939

House of Representatives, April 10, 2019

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY, C. of the 133rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPAL CULTURAL DISTRICTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) As used in this
2 section:

3 (1) "Municipality" means any town, city, borough, consolidated
4 town and city or consolidated town and borough; and

5 (2) "Regional service organization" means an organization
6 designated by the Commissioner of Economic and Community
7 Development as a regional provider of arts and cultural leadership for
8 the support of state and municipal economies.

9 (b) Any municipality may, by vote of its legislative body and in
10 conformance with the standards and criteria formulated by the
11 Department of Economic and Community Development, establish
12 within its confines a cultural district or districts to promote the

13 educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public
14 through the marketing of arts and culture attractions, the
15 encouragement of artists and artistic and cultural enterprises and the
16 promotion of tourism.

17 (c) In each municipality that establishes a cultural district or districts
18 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, such municipality shall
19 establish a cultural district commission. The legislative body of such
20 municipality, in consultation with the Commissioner of Economic and
21 Community Development, shall determine the number of members to
22 serve on such commission, the term of such members and the manner
23 in which such members are appointed and in which any vacancy on
24 such commission is to be filled. Subject to the approval of such
25 legislative body, such commission may exercise any power and
26 perform any duty necessary or desirable for the purpose of carrying
27 out the provisions of this section, including, but not limited to, (1)
28 consulting and collaborating with said commissioner and regional
29 service organizations for assistance with marketing, advocacy and
30 other efforts, and (2) applying for or soliciting and accepting any grant,
31 contribution, gift, bequest, devise or other donation from any source.

32 (d) The legislative body of any municipality may make
33 appropriations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this
34 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2019	New section

PD *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill allows municipalities to establish cultural districts and requires the creation of cultural district commissions in municipalities that establish these districts. This has no fiscal impact as it does not require a municipality to take any action requiring additional resources.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

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)