



# House of Representatives

**File No. 981**

General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**(Reprint of File No. 575)**

House Bill No. 6939  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 23, 2019

***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. Such legislative body shall authorize  
25 such commission to exercise any power and perform any duty  
26 necessary or desirable for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of  
27 this section, including, but not limited to, (1) consulting and  
28 collaborating with said commissioner and regional service  
29 organizations for assistance with marketing, advocacy and other  
30 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	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	New section

*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.*

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**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.

House "A" makes technical and clarifying changes to the bill which have no fiscal impact.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**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)