OLR Bill Analysis
sSB 1072

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS.

SUMMARY

This bill modifies the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relation’s (ACIR's) charge and membership. It also expands ACIR’s reporting requirements to include an annual work plan and recommendations regarding sharing services among state, local, and regional governments. The bill additionally modifies deadlines by which various reporting requirements must be completed and the parties that must receive certain reports (i.e., quadrennial, supplemental, and annual mandate reports).

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

BROADENED CHARGE

By law, ACIR studies the relationship between state and local governments and recommends solutions to issues it identifies. The bill specifies that its research on intergovernmental issues must include (1) information on consolidation of government services and (2) the direct and indirect impact of changes in the provision of services at different levels of government. Under the bill, ACIR also must develop models for sustainable, recurring savings and revenue growth.

REVISED MEMBERSHIP

Starting July 1, 2019, the bill adds to the commission (1) the Planning and Development Committee’s chairpersons and ranking members, or their designees, and (2) an organized labor representative selected by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by the Connecticut AFL-CIO.
It removes from the commission the (1) Senate president pro tempore; (2) House speaker; (3) Senate and House minority leaders; and (4) commissioners of the Education, Energy and Environmental Protection, and Economic and Community Development departments.

As under existing law, members appointed as legislators serve for the duration of their terms in office. The term length for other members remains two years, but the bill allows these members to continue to serve until a successor is appointed and has qualified to serve.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Annual Public Report and Work Plan

The bill requires ACIR to publish a work plan beginning July 1, 2019, and annually thereafter. As under existing law, ACIR also must publish an annual public report on its activities. The bill specifies that it must publish the report on the same schedule as the work plan and, beginning with the 2020 report, describe the status of items included in the prior year’s work plan, including statistical measures of progress made toward them.

Semiannual Recommendations

The bill requires ACIR to make semiannual recommendations regarding the accomplishment of all aspects of sharing services among state, regional, and local governments to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary. It must, in consultation with other commissions established to address consolidation and sharing of government services, make recommendations four times over a two-year period.

The recommendations may address, but are not limited to:

1. standardization and alignment of various regions;

2. consolidation of government services, such as joint purchasing between municipalities and school districts;

3. consolidation and sharing of government services, such as joint
purchasing among municipalities;

4. types of government services that may be provided in a more efficient, high-quality, or cost-effective manner by another level of government or regional council of government (COG), regional education service center (RESC), or other regional bodies;

5. standardization of government services, such as permit issuance;

6. report standardization, enhancement, or streamlining;

7. data collection and sharing standardization, enhancement, and streamlining;

8. opportunities for the use of e-government solutions to deliver services and conduct programs;

9. alternative revenue sources for municipal governments, COGs, and RESCs;

10. regional revenue sharing;

11. coalition bargaining and other changes to the relations between municipalities and their employees;

12. reducing municipalities’ long-term liabilities; and

13. timelines for planning and implementing ACIR’s recommendations.

The first recommendations are due by October 15, 2019, and every six months thereafter until October 15, 2021. The bill requires that ACIR provide the recommendations as part of its work plan development process, but the first work plan is due July 1, 2019.

Reports on State Mandates

By law, ACIR must submit to the General Assembly (1) a quadrennial report that lists all existing state mandates (i.e., legislative or executive actions that require a local government spend additional
local revenue to effectuate them); (2) a supplement to the quadrennial report for each intervening year; and (3) an annual list of mandates enacted during the preceding session.

The bill requires that ACIR include in its quadrennial report a description of the mandates’ potential impacts on municipalities. It eliminates the requirement that the report include a history of the mandates and costs municipalities incurred to implement them.

Under the bill, the next quadrennial report is due by the second Wednesday following the start of the regular 2020 session (February 19, 2020) and every four years thereafter.

By law, ACIR also must annually compile a list of state mandates enacted during the preceding session and share it with various state officials. Under the bill, ACIR must additionally submit the list to each municipal chief elected officer. Under current law, the OPM secretary provides notice of the list to them. The bill eliminates the requirement that the legislative leaders send the list to the OPM secretary.

For each list due on or after July 1, 2019, the bill makes the list due not more than 90 days after adjournment of regular or special session or November 15 after a regular session adjourns, whichever is later.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

HB 7192, reported favorably by the Planning and Development Committee, contains the same provisions as sHB 1072. It additionally authorizes ACIR to annually recommend to the OPM secretary proposals for achieving cost savings through regional efficiencies and allows the OPM secretary to provide Regional Performance Incentive Program grants to specified entities to administer an ACIR proposal.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21  Nay 0  (03/29/2019)