



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

***Raised Bill No. 5517***

LCO No. 1902



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:  
(PD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL PLANNING AND COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 4-66k of the 2020 supplement to the general statutes  
2 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2020*):

4 (a) There is established an account to be known as the "regional  
5 planning incentive account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing  
6 account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys  
7 required by law to be deposited in the account. Except as provided in  
8 subsection (d) of this section, moneys, in the account shall be expended  
9 by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management in accordance  
10 with subsection (b) of this section for the purposes of first providing  
11 funding to regional planning organizations in accordance with the  
12 provisions of subsections (b) [and (c)] to (d), inclusive, of this section  
13 and then to providing grants under the regional performance incentive  
14 program established pursuant to section 4-124s, as amended by this act.

15 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, funds from the regional

16 planning incentive account shall be distributed to each regional  
17 planning organization, as defined in section 4-124i, revision of 1958,  
18 revised to January 1, 2013, in the amount of one hundred twenty-five  
19 thousand dollars. Any regional council of governments that is  
20 comprised of any two or more regional planning organizations that  
21 voluntarily consolidate on or before December 31, 2013, shall receive an  
22 additional payment in an amount equal to the amount the regional  
23 planning organizations would have received if such regional planning  
24 organizations had not voluntarily consolidated.

25 (c) [Beginning in] For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and  
26 [annually thereafter] each fiscal year thereafter until July 1, 2021, funds  
27 from the regional planning incentive account shall be distributed to each  
28 regional council of governments formed pursuant to section 4-124j, in  
29 the amount of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars plus fifty cents  
30 per capita, using population information from the most recent federal  
31 decennial census. Any regional council of governments that is  
32 comprised of any two or more regional planning organizations, as  
33 defined in section 4-124i, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013,  
34 that voluntarily consolidated on or before December 31, 2013, shall  
35 receive a payment in the amount of one hundred twenty-five thousand  
36 dollars for each such regional planning organization that voluntarily  
37 consolidated on or before said date.

38 (d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, and each fiscal year  
39 thereafter, funds from the regional planning incentive account shall be  
40 distributed to each regional council of governments formed pursuant to  
41 section 4-124j, in the amount of two hundred thousand dollars plus fifty  
42 cents per capita, using population information from the most recent  
43 federal decennial census. The secretary may distribute, annually, an  
44 additional amount to each regional council of governments.

45 [(d)] (e) There is established a regionalization subaccount within the  
46 regional planning incentive account. If the Connecticut Lottery  
47 Corporation offers online its existing lottery draw games through the  
48 corporation's Internet web site, online service or mobile application, the

49 revenue from such online offering that exceeds an amount equivalent to  
50 the costs of the debt-free community college program under section 10a-  
51 174 shall be deposited in the subaccount, or, if such online offering is not  
52 established, the amount provided under subsection (b) of section 364 of  
53 public act 19-117 for regionalization initiatives shall be deposited in the  
54 subaccount. Moneys in the subaccount shall be expended only for the  
55 purposes recommended by the task force established under section 4-  
56 66s.

57 Sec. 2. Section 4-66r of the general statutes is repealed and the  
58 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

59 For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2018] 2021, and each fiscal year  
60 thereafter, each regional council of governments shall [, within available  
61 appropriations,] receive a grant-in-aid to be known as a regional  
62 services grant, the amount of which shall be based on [a formula to be  
63 determined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management.  
64 No such council shall receive a grant for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
65 2018, unless the secretary approves a spending plan for such grant  
66 moneys submitted by such council to the secretary on or before  
67 November 1, 2017. No such council shall receive a grant for the fiscal  
68 year ending June 30, 2019, or any fiscal year thereafter, unless the  
69 secretary approves a spending plan for such grant moneys submitted by  
70 such council to the secretary on or before July 1, 2018, and annually  
71 thereafter] the formula established pursuant to section 4-66k, as  
72 amended by this act. Each regional council of governments shall use  
73 such grant funds for planning purposes and to achieve efficiencies in  
74 the delivery of municipal services, without diminishing the quality of  
75 such services. On or before October 1, [2018] 2021, and annually  
76 thereafter, each regional council of governments shall submit a report,  
77 in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the  
78 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning  
79 and development and finance, revenue and bonding, and to the  
80 secretary. Such report shall (1) summarize the expenditure of such grant  
81 funds, (2) describe any regional program, project or initiative currently  
82 provided or planned by the council, (3) review the performance of any

83 existing regional program, project or initiative relative to its initial goals  
84 and objectives, (4) analyze the existing services provided by member  
85 municipalities or by the state that, in the opinion of the council, could  
86 be more effectively or efficiently provided on a regional basis, and (5)  
87 provide recommendations for legislative action concerning potential  
88 impediments to the regionalization of services.

89 Sec. 3. Subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of section 4-124s of the general  
90 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
91 (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

92 (b) There is established a regional performance incentive program  
93 that shall be administered by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
94 Management. [On or before December 31, 2011, and annually thereafter,  
95 any regional council of governments, any two or more municipalities  
96 acting through a regional council of governments, any economic  
97 development district, any regional educational service center or any  
98 combination thereof may submit a proposal to the secretary for: (1) The  
99 joint provision of any service that one or more participating  
100 municipalities of such council, educational service center or agency  
101 currently provide but which is not provided on a regional basis, (2) a  
102 planning study regarding the joint provision of any service on a regional  
103 basis, or (3) shared information technology services. A copy of said  
104 proposal shall be sent to the legislators representing said participating  
105 municipalities.] The secretary may provide funding for: (1) The joint  
106 provision of any government service, or (2) a planning study regarding  
107 the joint provision of any service on a regional basis. Any local or  
108 regional board of education or regional educational service center  
109 serving a population greater than one hundred thousand may submit a  
110 proposal to the secretary for a regional special education initiative.

111 (c) (1) A regional council of governments, an economic development  
112 district, a regional educational service center or a local or regional board  
113 of education shall submit each proposal in the form and manner the  
114 secretary prescribes and shall [, at a minimum, provide the following  
115 information for each proposal: (A) Service or initiative description; (B)

116 the explanation of the need for such service or initiative; (C) the method  
117 of delivering such service or initiative on a regional basis; (D) the  
118 organization that would be responsible for regional service or initiative  
119 delivery; (E) a description of the population that would be served; (F)  
120 the manner in which regional service or initiative delivery will achieve  
121 economies of scale; (G) the amount by which participating  
122 municipalities will reduce their mill rates as a result of savings realized;  
123 (H) a cost benefit analysis for the provision of the service or initiative by  
124 each participating municipality and by the entity or board of education  
125 submitting the proposal; (I) a plan of implementation for delivery of the  
126 service or initiative on a regional basis; (J) a resolution endorsing such  
127 proposal approved by the legislative body of each participating  
128 municipality; and (K) an explanation of the potential legal obstacles, if  
129 any, to the regional provision of the service or initiative] provide a  
130 resolution endorsing such proposal approved by the regional council of  
131 governments of each planning region in which the jointly provided  
132 government service or planning study thereon is to be conducted. On or  
133 before December 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the Connecticut  
134 Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, established  
135 pursuant to section 2-79a, may recommend to the secretary any specific  
136 proposal for achieving additional cost savings through regional  
137 efficiencies. The secretary may provide funding, within available  
138 resources, to a regional council of governments, an economic  
139 development district, a regional educational service center or any  
140 combination thereof for the purpose of administering any such  
141 proposal. Said commission shall submit each proposal in the form and  
142 manner the secretary prescribes.

143 (2) The secretary shall review each proposal and shall award grants  
144 for proposals the secretary determines best meet the requirements of  
145 this section. [In awarding such grants, the secretary shall give priority  
146 to a proposal submitted by (A) any entity specified in subsection (a) of  
147 this section that includes participation of all of the member  
148 municipalities of such entity, and which may increase the purchasing  
149 power of participating municipalities or provide a cost savings initiative

150 resulting in a decrease in expenses of such municipalities, allowing such  
151 municipalities to lower property taxes, (B) any economic development  
152 district, and (C) any local or regional board of education.]

153 (d) On or before December 31, 2013, and annually thereafter until  
154 December 31, 2018, in addition to any proposal submitted pursuant to  
155 this section, any municipality or regional council of governments may  
156 apply to the secretary for a grant to fund: (1) Operating costs associated  
157 with connecting to the state-wide high speed, flexible network  
158 developed pursuant to section 4d-80, including the costs to connect at  
159 the same rate as other government entities served by such network; and  
160 (2) capital cost associated with connecting to such network, including  
161 expenses associated with building out the internal fiber network  
162 connections required to connect to such network, provided the secretary  
163 shall make any such grant available in accordance with the two-year  
164 schedule by which the Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology  
165 recommends connecting each municipality and regional council of  
166 governments to such network. Any municipality or regional council of  
167 governments shall submit each application in the form and manner the  
168 secretary prescribes.

169 (e) The secretary shall submit to the Governor and the joint standing  
170 [committee] committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
171 matters relating to planning and development and finance, revenue and  
172 bonding a report on the grants provided pursuant to this section. Each  
173 such report shall include information on the amount of each grant, and  
174 the potential of each grant for leveraging other public and private  
175 investments. The secretary shall submit a report for the fiscal year  
176 commencing July 1, 2011, not later than February 1, 2012, and shall  
177 submit a report for each subsequent fiscal year not later than the first  
178 day of March in such fiscal year. [Such reports shall include the property  
179 tax reductions achieved by means of the program established pursuant  
180 to this section.]

181 Sec. 4. Section 4-124n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
182 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

183 A regional council of governments shall adopt bylaws for the conduct  
 184 of its business and shall annually elect from among the representatives  
 185 to the council a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, [who  
 186 shall be bonded,] and such other officers as may be designated or  
 187 permitted in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for alternate  
 188 representatives of the council to attend and vote at any meeting in place  
 189 of absent representatives and may provide for the organization of a  
 190 regional planning commission. [No representative shall be eligible to  
 191 serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.] The bylaws  
 192 [shall] may provide for an executive committee of the council [and an  
 193 executive committee of the regional planning commission and may  
 194 provide] and for additional committees including nonvoting advisory  
 195 committees. Meetings of the council shall be called [by the chairman or  
 196 as the bylaws shall otherwise provide] pursuant to the bylaws and  
 197 minutes of all meetings of the council, its committees and other official  
 198 actions shall be filed in the office of the council and shall be of public  
 199 record.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	4-66k
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	4-66r
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	4-124s(b) to (e)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	4-124n

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) make certain modifications to the administration of the regional planning incentive account and related programs, and (2) revise the bylaws requirements for officers and conduct of regional councils of governments.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*