
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5056

AN ACT FACILITATING THE EXPANSION OF SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES.

SUMMARY

This bill repeals, revokes, and rescinds any provision of a municipal charter, special act, or home rule ordinance that limits or prohibits a municipality from sharing services through an agreement with other municipalities or regional councils of government (COG).

Additionally, under the bill, if a municipality enters into a service sharing agreement with one or more municipalities or a COG, or seeks to do so:

1. collective bargaining units representing municipal employees covered by the agreement may enter into agreements with other units to establish a coalition bargaining unit to negotiate with municipalities, boards of education, or COGs to provide regional public services, including education, police, fire, and emergency medical services;
2. municipalities, boards of education, and COGs must bargain with these coalition bargaining units at their request; and
3. collective bargaining units representing municipal employees covered by the agreement may file a modification or clarification petition with the State Board of Labor Relations seeking to represent unrepresented employees performing these shared services.

The bill allows collective bargaining units to file a clarification or modification petition (1) regardless of the terms of any collective bargaining agreement that covers the represented municipal employees

and (2) according to the existing law on these petitions.

Lastly, the bill authorizes COGs to make appointments on behalf of municipalities for municipal functions that are subject to a shared services agreement. The appointments must (1) apply to each of the COG's member municipalities that is a party to the agreement and (2) be instead of the member municipality's individual appointment. The bill authorizes the Office of Policy and Management secretary to adopt regulations to implement this provision.

The bill's provisions apply to towns, cities, boroughs, consolidated towns and cities and towns and boroughs; fire, sewer, and other special taxing districts; and metropolitan and municipal districts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

§ 2 — COG APPOINTMENTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

The bill allows COGs, regardless of state or local law, local charters, and home rule ordinances, to make any appointment that the law authorizes or requires municipalities to make for certain functions that are the subject of an interlocal or regional services agreement. Under the bill, these municipal functions include planning activities described in laws on (1) local plans of conservation and development, (2) affordable housing plans, and (3) local emergency medical services plans. They also include the administrative and regulatory activities described in laws on:

1. registrars of vital statistics;
2. assessors;
3. municipal parking authorities;
4. fair rent and fair housing commissions;
5. land bank authorities;
6. zoning enforcement officers;

7. tax collectors;
8. municipal animal control officers;
9. town clerks issuing dog licenses and tags;
10. inland wetlands agencies;
11. local building officials and boards of appeal for building code cases; and
12. local fire marshals, fire inspectors, and other fire code inspectors and investigators.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 7 (03/22/2024)