



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 6104

LCO No. 2642



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 Section 4-66k of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) There is established an account to be known as the "regional
4 planning incentive account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing
5 account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys
6 required by law to be deposited in the account. Except as provided in
7 subsection [(d)] (e) of this section, moneys, in the account shall be
8 expended by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management in
9 accordance with subsection (b) of this section for the purposes of first
10 providing funding to regional planning organizations in accordance
11 with the provisions of subsections (b) [and (c)] to (d), inclusive, of this
12 section and then to providing grants under the regional performance
13 incentive program established pursuant to section 4-124s, as amended
14 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, 2022, and each fiscal year
39 thereafter, funds from the regional planning incentive account in a total
40 amount equal to one-third of the moneys required to be deposited in
41 such account in the prior fiscal year or four million one hundred
42 thousand dollars, whichever is greater, shall be distributed to regional
43 councils of governments formed pursuant to section 4-124j. The
44 secretary shall distribute to each regional council of governments one
45 hundred eighty-five thousand five hundred dollars, plus sixty-eight
46 cents per capita, using population information from the most recent
47 federal decennial census, except that if such total amount exceeds four
48 million one hundred dollars, the secretary shall additionally distribute
49 such excess amount proportionally among each regional council of

50 governments on a per capita basis using such population information.
51 The secretary may reduce the amount of any such distribution, provided
52 for any such reduction proposed by the secretary that is greater than five
53 per cent of the amount of such distribution, prior to making such
54 reduction the secretary shall submit a report explaining and detailing
55 such reduction to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
56 having cognizance of matters relating to planning and development in
57 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

58 [(d)] (e) There is established a regionalization subaccount within the
59 regional planning incentive account. If the Connecticut Lottery
60 Corporation offers online its existing lottery draw games through the
61 corporation's Internet web site, online service or mobile application, the
62 revenue from such online offering that exceeds an amount equivalent to
63 the costs of the debt-free community college program under section 10a-
64 174 shall be deposited in the subaccount, or, if such online offering is not
65 established, the amount provided under subsection (b) of section 364 of
66 public act 19-117 for regionalization initiatives shall be deposited in the
67 subaccount. Moneys in the subaccount shall be expended only for the
68 purposes recommended by the task force established under section 4-
69 66s.

70 Sec. 2. Section 4-66r of the general statutes is repealed and the
71 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

72 For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2018] 2022, and each fiscal year
73 thereafter, each regional council of governments shall [, within available
74 appropriations,] receive a grant-in-aid to be known as a regional
75 services grant, the amount of which shall be based on [a formula to be
76 determined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management.
77 No such council shall receive a grant for the fiscal year ending June 30,
78 2018, unless the secretary approves a spending plan for such grant
79 moneys submitted by such council to the secretary on or before
80 November 1, 2017. No such council shall receive a grant for the fiscal
81 year ending June 30, 2019, or any fiscal year thereafter, unless the
82 secretary approves a spending plan for such grant moneys submitted by

83 such council to the secretary on or before July 1, 2018, and annually
84 thereafter] the formula established pursuant to section 4-66k, as
85 amended by this act. Each regional council of governments shall use
86 such grant funds for planning purposes and to achieve efficiencies in
87 the delivery of municipal services, without diminishing the quality of
88 such services. On or before October 1, [2018] 2022, and annually
89 thereafter, each regional council of governments shall submit a report,
90 in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the
91 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning
92 and development and finance, revenue and bonding, and to the
93 secretary. Such report shall (1) summarize the expenditure of such grant
94 funds, (2) describe any regional program, project or initiative currently
95 provided or planned by the council, (3) review the performance of any
96 existing regional program, project or initiative relative to its initial goals
97 and objectives, (4) analyze the existing services provided by member
98 municipalities or by the state that, in the opinion of the council, could
99 be more effectively or efficiently provided on a regional basis, and (5)
100 provide recommendations for legislative action concerning potential
101 impediments to the regionalization of services.

102 Sec. 3. Subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of section 4-124s of the general
103 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
104 (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

105 (b) There is established a regional performance incentive program
106 that shall be administered by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
107 Management. [On or before December 31, 2011, and annually thereafter,
108 any regional council of governments, any two or more municipalities
109 acting through a regional council of governments, any economic
110 development district, any regional educational service center or any
111 combination thereof may submit a proposal to the secretary for: (1) The
112 joint provision of any service that one or more participating
113 municipalities of such council, educational service center or agency
114 currently provide but which is not provided on a regional basis, (2) a
115 planning study regarding the joint provision of any service on a regional
116 basis, or (3) shared information technology services. A copy of said

117 proposal shall be sent to the legislators representing said participating
118 municipalities.] In furtherance of the purposes of such program, the
119 secretary shall make available an amount equal to not less than ninety
120 per cent of the moneys remaining annually in the regional planning
121 incentive account, established pursuant to subsection (a) of section 4-
122 66k, after the distribution of funds to each regional council of
123 government under the formula established pursuant to section 4-66k, as
124 amended by this act. The secretary may provide funding for: (1) The
125 joint provision of any government service, or (2) a planning study
126 regarding the joint provision of any service on a regional basis. Any
127 local or regional board of education or regional educational service
128 center serving a population greater than one hundred thousand may
129 submit a proposal to the secretary for a regional special education
130 initiative.

131 (c) (1) A regional council of governments, an economic development
132 district, a regional educational service center or a local or regional board
133 of education shall submit each proposal in the form and manner the
134 secretary prescribes and shall [, at a minimum, provide the following
135 information for each proposal: (A) Service or initiative description; (B)
136 the explanation of the need for such service or initiative; (C) the method
137 of delivering such service or initiative on a regional basis; (D) the
138 organization that would be responsible for regional service or initiative
139 delivery; (E) a description of the population that would be served; (F)
140 the manner in which regional service or initiative delivery will achieve
141 economies of scale; (G) the amount by which participating
142 municipalities will reduce their mill rates as a result of savings realized;
143 (H) a cost benefit analysis for the provision of the service or initiative by
144 each participating municipality and by the entity or board of education
145 submitting the proposal; (I) a plan of implementation for delivery of the
146 service or initiative on a regional basis; (J) a resolution endorsing such
147 proposal approved by the legislative body of each participating
148 municipality; and (K) an explanation of the potential legal obstacles, if
149 any, to the regional provision of the service or initiative] provide a
150 resolution endorsing such proposal approved by the regional council of

151 governments of each planning region in which the jointly provided
152 government service or planning study thereon is to be conducted. On or
153 before December 1, 2021, and annually thereafter, the Connecticut
154 Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, established
155 pursuant to section 2-79a, may recommend to the secretary any specific
156 proposal for achieving additional cost savings through regional
157 efficiencies. The secretary may provide funding, within available
158 resources, to a regional council of governments, an economic
159 development district, a regional educational service center or any
160 combination thereof for the purpose of administering any such
161 proposal. Said commission shall submit each proposal in the form and
162 manner the secretary prescribes.

163 (2) The secretary shall review each proposal and shall award grants
164 for proposals the secretary determines best meet the requirements of
165 this section. [In awarding such grants, the secretary shall give priority
166 to a proposal submitted by (A) any entity specified in subsection (a) of
167 this section that includes participation of all of the member
168 municipalities of such entity, and which may increase the purchasing
169 power of participating municipalities or provide a cost savings initiative
170 resulting in a decrease in expenses of such municipalities, allowing such
171 municipalities to lower property taxes, (B) any economic development
172 district, and (C) any local or regional board of education.]

173 (d) On or before December 31, 2013, and annually thereafter until
174 December 31, 2018, in addition to any proposal submitted pursuant to
175 this section, any municipality or regional council of governments may
176 apply to the secretary for a grant to fund: (1) Operating costs associated
177 with connecting to the state-wide high speed, flexible network
178 developed pursuant to section 4d-80, including the costs to connect at
179 the same rate as other government entities served by such network; and
180 (2) capital cost associated with connecting to such network, including
181 expenses associated with building out the internal fiber network
182 connections required to connect to such network, provided the secretary
183 shall make any such grant available in accordance with the two-year
184 schedule by which the Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology

185 recommends connecting each municipality and regional council of
186 governments to such network. Any municipality or regional council of
187 governments shall submit each application in the form and manner the
188 secretary prescribes.

189 (e) The secretary shall submit to the Governor and the joint standing
190 [committee] committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
191 matters relating to planning and development and finance, revenue and
192 bonding a report on the grants provided pursuant to this section. Each
193 such report shall include information on the amount of each grant, and
194 the potential of each grant for leveraging other public and private
195 investments. The secretary shall submit a report for the fiscal year
196 commencing July 1, 2011, not later than February 1, 2012, and shall
197 submit a report for each subsequent fiscal year not later than the first
198 day of March in such fiscal year. [Such reports shall include the property
199 tax reductions achieved by means of the program established pursuant
200 to this section.]

201 Sec. 4. Section 4-124n of the general statutes is repealed and the
202 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

203 A regional council of governments shall adopt bylaws for the conduct
204 of its business and shall annually elect from among the representatives
205 to the council a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary, a treasurer [, who
206 shall be bonded,] and such other officers as may be designated or
207 permitted in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for alternate
208 representatives of the council to attend and vote at any meeting in place
209 of absent representatives and may provide for the organization of a
210 regional planning commission. [No representative shall be eligible to
211 serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.] The bylaws
212 [shall] may provide for an executive committee of the council and [an
213 executive committee of the regional planning commission and may
214 provide] for additional committees including nonvoting advisory
215 committees. Meetings of the council shall be called [by the chairman or
216 as the bylaws shall otherwise provide] pursuant to the bylaws and
217 minutes of all meetings of the council, its committees and other official

218 actions shall be filed in the office of the council and shall be of public
219 record.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	4-66k
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	4-66r
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	4-124s(b) to (e)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2021</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.]