

**CHAPTER 119****REGIONAL COOPERATION****SUBCHAPTER 1****REGIONAL COUNCILS****ARTICLE 1****GENERAL PROVISIONS****§2301. Declaration of policy**

The Legislature recognizes that a high level of cooperation and understanding between the State and its local governments is necessary to achieve common public goals and that coordination through regional councils is a way to achieve improved state and local cooperation. The Legislature further recognizes that regional councils are uniquely qualified to assist in the development of technical capacities of local governments; to develop regional policies, services and solutions to meet local needs; and to serve as a vital link between local governments and the State. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§2302. Forms of regional councils**

The Legislature recognizes councils of governments and regional planning commissions as forms of regional councils. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§2303. Lead agency**

**1. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.** The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall serve as the coordinator between regional councils and the State, shall administer state funds supporting regional council tasks and may provide technical assistance to regional councils as appropriate.

[PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. JJ, §11 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. JJ, §41 (AFF); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 (REV).]

**2. Rulemaking.** The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may adopt rules to create standardized contracts and administrative and audit requirements for state funds received by regional councils.

[PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. JJ, §11 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. JJ, §41 (AFF); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 (REV).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. JJ, §11 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. JJ, §41 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 (REV).

#### **§2304. Tax status**

Regional councils established in accordance with this Title are tax-exempt institutions which are exempt only from income and sales taxes. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§2305. Construction**

This subchapter must be liberally construed toward the end of enabling councils to implement municipal programs and services on behalf of member municipalities, while avoiding the creation of special districts or other legal or administrative entities to accomplish these purposes. Programs and services may include, but are not limited to, programs and services for transit, solid waste, household hazardous waste, economic development, code enforcement, general financial and administrative activities and joint purchasing. [PL 2007, c. 215, §1 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 215, §1 (AMD).

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS**

#### **§2311. Establishment**

The municipal officers of any 2 or more municipalities by appropriate action may enter into an agreement, between or among those municipalities, for the establishment of a regional council of governments. [PL 1995, c. 233, Pt. C, §2 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 233, §C2 (AMD).

#### **§2312. Contents of agreement**

The agreement must provide for representation, but at least 1/2 of the representatives of each member must be municipal officers. The agreement must specify the organization, the method of withdrawal, the method of terminating the agreement and the grounds for suspension of member municipalities. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§2313. Powers and duties**

**1. Powers.** The council may:

A. Study any governmental needs and opportunities common to 2 or more members of the council that it considers appropriate, including, but not limited to, matters affecting health, safety, welfare, education, economic conditions and regional development; [PL 2007, c. 215, §2 (AMD).]

B. Promote cooperative arrangements and coordinate action among its members, including, but not limited to, arrangements and actions with respect to transit services, joint purchasing, solid waste management and household waste management; [PL 2007, c. 215, §2 (AMD).]

C. Make recommendations for review and action to its members and other public agencies that perform functions within the region; and [PL 2007, c. 215, §2 (AMD).]

D. Prepare and maintain a comprehensive regional plan. [PL 2007, c. 215, §2 (NEW).]  
[PL 2007, c. 215, §2 (AMD).]

**2. Authority.** The council, on behalf of one or more member municipalities and upon appropriate action of the legislative bodies of one or more member municipalities, may exercise any power, privilege or authority capable of exercise by a member municipality and necessary or desirable for dealing with problems of local or regional concern, except essential legislative powers, taxing authority or eminent domain power. This authority is in addition to any other authority granted to municipalities by the general laws and includes, but is not limited to, the formation of transit, solid waste and other services operations.

[PL 2007, c. 215, §3 (AMD).]

**3. Standing committee.** The council, by appropriate action of the legislative bodies of the member municipalities, may establish a standing committee to prepare and maintain a comprehensive regional plan.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Transfer.** Where a regional planning commission has been established under article 3, the member municipalities, by appropriate action, may provide for the transfer of all assets, liabilities, rights and obligations of the commission to the council and provide for the dissolution of the commission.

[PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 502, Pt. A, §113 (AMD).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 502, §A113 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 215, §§2, 3 (AMD).

**§2314. Bylaws**

The council shall adopt bylaws designating the officers of the council and providing for the conduct of its business. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§2315. Staff**

The council may employ any staff and consult and retain any experts that it considers necessary. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§2316. Finances; annual report**

**1. Expenses.** The legislative bodies of the member governments may appropriate funds under their home rule authority to meet the expenses of the council. Services of personnel, use of equipment and office space and other necessary services may be accepted from members as part of their financial support.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Funds.** The council may accept funds, grants, gifts and services from:

A. The Federal Government; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The State or its departments, agencies or instrumentalities; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. Any other governmental unit, whether participating in the council or not; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. Private and civic sources. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Report.** The council shall make an annual report of its activities to the member governments. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Borrowing.** To accomplish the purposes of this subchapter and for paying any indebtedness and any necessary expenses and liabilities incurred for those purposes, the council may borrow money and issue therefor its negotiable notes having any terms and provisions that the governing body of the council determines. The council may contract with one or more member municipalities for the receipt of funds to accomplish any of the purposes authorized by this article and may incur indebtedness in anticipation of the receipt of these funds by issuing its negotiable notes payable in not more than one year. The notes may be renewed from time to time by the issue of other notes, provided that no notes may be issued or renewed in an amount which at the time of issuance or renewal exceeds the amount of funds remaining to be paid under contracts with one or more member municipalities.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**5. Guarantees.** Notwithstanding any law, charter, ordinance or limitation to the contrary, any one or more member municipalities of a regional council may guarantee notes or other indebtedness or obligations of the regional council.

[PL 2007, c. 215, §4 (AMD).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 512 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 215, §4 (AMD).

## ARTICLE 3

### REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

#### §2321. Establishment; purposes

**1. Establishment.** Any 7 or more municipalities or unorganized territory townships, all of which are within one regional planning and development district and within one subdistrict if any, by vote of their municipal officers, may join together to form a regional planning commission.

A. If 4 to 6 municipalities desire to form a regional planning commission, each proposed member municipality must receive the consent of the commissioners of the county in which the municipality is located.

(1) Upon receiving a request for the formation of a regional planning commission under this paragraph, the county commissioners shall notify all proposed member municipalities and any regional planning commission in the county of the request and shall hold a public hearing on the request.

(2) The county commissioners shall grant a request by a municipality to join in the formation of a regional planning commission composed of 4 to 6 municipalities if that formation furthers the purposes of this chapter. [PL 1989, c. 202 (NEW).]

[PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 202 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 508, §2 (AMD).]

**2. Purposes.** The purposes of a regional planning commission are to:

A. Promote cooperative efforts toward regional development; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Prepare and maintain a comprehensive regional plan.

(1) The public must be given an adequate opportunity to be heard in the preparation of a comprehensive plan; [PL 2007, c. 215, §5 (AMD).]

C. Coordinate with state and federal planning and development programs; [PL 2007, c. 215, §5 (AMD).]

D. Provide planning assistance and advisory services to municipalities; and [PL 2007, c. 215, §5 (AMD).]

E. Provide programs and services to municipalities. [PL 2007, c. 215, §5 (NEW).]

[PL 2007, c. 215, §5 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 202 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 508, §2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 215, §5 (AMD).

#### §2322. Incorporation; powers

Regional planning commissions shall be incorporated under Title 13, chapter 81, and possess all the powers of a corporation organized without capital stock, except as limited by this article. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

### §2323. Representation

The municipal members of the commission's governing body shall consist of representatives of each member municipality or township appointed by the municipal officers. [PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 508, §3 (AMD).]

**1. Municipal representatives.** Municipalities or townships with a population of less than 10,000, as determined by the last Federal Decennial Census, shall have 2 representatives. Municipalities with populations greater than 10,000, as determined by the last Federal Decennial Census, shall have 2 representatives and an additional representative for each 10,000 increment in population, or fraction exceeding 1/2 of that number, over 10,000.

At least one representative for each municipality or township regardless of size must be a municipal officer or a designee elected by a majority vote of the municipal officers. This designee serves at the will of the municipal officers. All other representatives shall serve for terms of 2 years and may be removed by the municipal officers for cause after notice and hearing. A permanent vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as a regular appointment.

[PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 508, §3 (AMD).]

**2. County representatives.** A regional planning commission, in its bylaws, shall make available voting membership to any county within its regional planning and development district or subdistrict as provided in section 1201. Each member county shall have 2 representatives, to be appointed by vote of the county commissioners.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Alternates.** The commission, by bylaw, may provide for one alternate representative for each member municipality, township or county.

[PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 508, §3 (AMD).]

### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 508, §3 (AMD).

### §2324. Bylaws; records

The commission shall adopt bylaws, not inconsistent with this article, designating the officers of the commission and providing for the conduct of its business. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

The minutes of the proceedings of the commission must be filed in the commission's office. These minutes are a public record. Copies of the minutes must be posted on a publicly accessible site on the Internet and be provided to the municipal officers and the planning board of each member municipality upon request. [PL 2007, c. 215, §6 (AMD).]

### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 215, §6 (AMD).

### §2325. Finances

**1. Budget; member contributions.** The commission shall prepare an annual budget and shall determine on an equitable basis the contribution of each member toward the support of the commission. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Funds.** The commission may accept funds, grants, gifts and services from:

A. The Federal Government; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The State or its departments, agencies or instrumentalities; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. Any other governmental unit, whether a member or not; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. Private and civic sources. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Prohibition.** No department, agency or instrumentality of the State may provide any funds, grants, gifts or services to any commission which does not provide the results of any financial audit of any of its operations, including those of its subsidiary corporations, to any of its constituent municipalities.

[PL 1987, c. 884, Pt. C, §§3 and 6 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1987, c. 884, §§C3,C6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §2326. Staff services

To avoid duplication of staffs for various regional bodies assisted by the Federal Government, a commission may provide basic administrative, research and planning services for any regional development and planning bodies established in this State. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

## SUBCHAPTER 2

### REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

#### §2341. Regional planning and development districts

**1. Districts.** The Governor may designate regional planning and development districts and subdistricts for the purpose of coordinating policies, plans and programs among and within the various levels of government affecting the development of those districts or subdistricts.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Revisions.** The Governor, after consulting with the Department of Economic and Community Development, regional councils and the officers of the municipalities and counties involved, may revise the district boundaries to reflect changing conditions or otherwise to fulfill the purposes of this subchapter.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Agreements.** The Governor may enter into agreements on behalf of the State with the governor of an adjoining state or, with the consent of the United States Congress, with the premier of an adjoining province of Canada to establish interstate or international regional planning or development districts.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §2342. Planning and program review

**1. Review authority.** The Governor may designate a regional council as the authorized agency to receive, review and comment on federal projects and plans affecting regional planning, coordination and development, those significant local and state projects that exceed \$200,000 in total cost and those state projects involving more than one municipality.

A. When 2 or more contiguous regional councils are affected, and the Department of Economic and Community Development determines that:

(1) A project clearly concerns the jurisdictional area of only one regional council, that council is the authorized review agency; or

(2) A project clearly concerns the jurisdictional area of 2 or more councils, joint receipt and review and comment is required. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. When the Department of Economic and Community Development determines that a project clearly concerns both incorporated and unincorporated areas within a district, joint receipt and review and comment by the affected regional council or councils and the Maine Land Use Planning Commission is required. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 682, §38 (REV).]

C. All regional planning councils must complete the review under this subsection within 30 days after receiving the project information unless the requesting agency agrees to extend this period. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 682, §38 (REV).]

**2. Planning review of federal program grant application.** All applications for federal program grants affecting regional planning, coordination and development, including programs under Section 204 of the United States Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966, Public Law 89-754, and the United States Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968, Public Law 90-577, and the objectives set forth in the United States Office of Management and Budget Circular A-95, shall be



submitted to the regional council for review and comment. Subsection 5 applies to these grant applications.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Planning review of state agency long-term plans.** Each state department, commission, board or agency shall submit to the regional council, for review and comment, all long-term comprehensive plans that will have a significant regional effect within the council's jurisdiction. The regional council shall complete its review within 30 days after receiving the long-term comprehensive plan. When 2 or more regional councils coexist within a district, subsection 1 applies.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Planning review of local government and special district plans and programs.** Each municipality, watershed district and soil conservation district, all or part of which lies within the jurisdictional area of the regional council, shall submit to the council, for comment and recommendation, its long-term comprehensive plans or any matter which in the council's judgment has a substantial effect on regional development, including, but not limited to, plans for land use.

A. No action may be taken to institute any such plan or part of a plan until 30 days after all the relevant information has been submitted to the regional council for review and comment. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The council shall notify each municipality or special district, which may be affected by the plans, of:

(1) The general nature of the plan;

(2) The date of submission; and

(3) The identity of the unit submitting the plans. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. The council may conduct a hearing on the submitted plans if it considers the hearing to be in the best interest of the region. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**5. Review of applications for state-aid programs.** Within each planning and development district or subdistrict in which a regional council has been organized, the governing body of each governmental unit and special district shall submit to the regional council for review any applications to state agencies for loans or grants-in-aid before the application is made. The regional council shall determine whether or not the proposed application is properly coordinated with other existing or proposed projects within the district, as well as any district plans or policies where they exist. In making this determination, the council shall inform both the applicant agency and the granting authority of its opinion within 30 days.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**6. Referral of proposals for interlocal agreements or formation of special purpose districts.** Before any 2 or more municipalities may join together through an interlocal agreement or the formation of a special purpose district under the Maine Revised Statutes or any special act for purposes of jointly developing or operating physical facilities and services for the performance of municipal or regional

functions, the municipalities shall submit the proposal to the regional council or councils within whose areas of jurisdiction the municipalities are located. The council or councils, within 30 days, shall render an advisory report of the regional significance of the proposal, unless the referring municipalities agree to extend this period.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**7. Notice to regional council to establish or change land use zones.** When a municipality proposes to establish or change a land use zone or any regulation affecting the use of a zone, any portion of which is within 500 feet of the boundary of another municipality located within the jurisdiction of a regional council, the municipality shall give written notice to the council of its public hearing to be held in relation to that establishment or change. The council shall study the proposal and shall report its findings and recommendations to the municipality at or before the public hearing. Failure to submit the council's advisory report at or before the hearing constitutes approval.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**8. Local assistance.** Regional councils may provide local assistance as provided in this subsection.

A. The council may make recommendations on the basis of its plans and studies to local planning boards or to the municipal officers of any member and to any county, state or federal authorities. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. A municipal planning board may use any part of the regional planning studies which pertain to the municipality in its own comprehensive plan. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. The council may assist any of its members in solving a local planning problem. All or part of the cost of local assistance may be paid by any of its members. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**9. Comprehensive plans to comply with standards.** Any comprehensive plans developed pursuant to this subchapter shall comply with the provisions of subpart 6-A.

[PL 1989, c. 878, Pt. C, §46 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 878, §C46 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 682, §38 (REV).

#### §2343. Regional quality of place investment strategies

**(REPEALED)**

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 483, §3 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. EE, §19 (RP). PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. EE, §30 (AFF).

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