

1 H.450

2 Introduced by Representative Sweaney of Windsor

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Municipal and county government; municipal and regional planning  
6 and development; regional planning commissions; powers

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to grant  
8 administrative powers to regional planning commissions to permit the  
9 commissions to apply for grants, purchase property for office space, borrow  
10 money to purchase such property, act as an escrow agent, and enter into  
11 contracts to provide regional planning services.

12 An act relating to expanding the powers of regional planning commissions

13 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

14 Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 4345 is amended to read:

15 § 4345. OPTIONAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF REGIONAL PLANNING  
16 COMMISSIONS

17 A regional planning commission created under this chapter may:

18 \* \* \*

19 (16) Include in its charter and bylaws adopted pursuant to section 4343  
20 of this chapter the power to:

1           (A) acquire and dispose of a fee simple or lesser interest in real  
2 property through purchase, lease, grant, gift, bequest, or devise for the purpose  
3 of fulfilling its duties pursuant to this section and section 4345a of this title;

4           (B) borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose of  
5 purchasing or leasing property for office space if approved by a two-thirds vote  
6 of those representatives to the regional planning commission present and  
7 voting at a meeting to approve such action;

8           (C) at the request of one or more member municipalities, act as an  
9 escrow agent and hold funds related to a municipal project or a project subject  
10 to a municipal land use permit in an escrow account, including taxes, fines, and  
11 developer fees; and

12           (D) enter into contracts with public and private entities, including the  
13 State of Vermont to provide regional planning services and fulfill its duties  
14 pursuant to this section and section 4345a of this title.

15           ~~(16)~~(17) Perform such other acts or functions as it may deem necessary  
16 or appropriate to fulfill the duties and obligations imposed by, and the intent  
17 and purposes of, this chapter.

18       Sec. 2. 24 V.S.A. § 4346 is amended to read:

19       § 4346. APPROPRIATIONS

20       Regional planning commissions may apply for, receive, and expend monies  
21 from any source public or private, including, without limitation, grants, loans,

1 and funds made available by the participating municipalities, and by the  
2 ~~agency of commerce and community development~~ Agency of Commerce and  
3 Community Development, out-of-state funds appropriated to that ~~agency~~  
4 Agency for this purpose. Notwithstanding the provisions of any municipal  
5 charter, any municipality may appropriate and expend funds to and for regional  
6 planning commissions either by the authorization of its voters or by  
7 incorporating such amount as a line item in their administrative budget.

8 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.