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H.249

Introduced by Representatives Sweaney of Windsor, Devereux of Mount  
Holly, Evans of Essex, and Martin of Wolcott

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Municipal government; intermunicipal services; regional planning  
commissions; regional council of governments

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow a  
regional planning commission to enter into an agreement with its member  
municipalities to create a regional council of governments. The council would  
assist those municipalities in planning for common needs.

An act relating to intermunicipal services and the authority to create a  
regional council of governments

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

Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. chapter 121, subchapter 7 is added to read:

Subchapter 7. Regional Council of Governments

§ 4948. CREATION OF REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

(a) Any regional planning commission may enter into an agreement  
between or among its municipalities to establish a regional council of  
governments.

1        (b) The agreement must:

2            (1) provide at least 50 percent of its representatives shall be elected  
3        municipal officials from member municipalities; and

4            (2) specify the organization, method of withdrawal, method of  
5        terminating the agreement, and the grounds for suspension of member  
6        municipalities.

7        (c) The council shall adopt bylaws designating the officers of the council  
8        and providing for the conduct of its business.

9        § 4949. FINANCES; STAFF

10       (a) Expenses. The legislative bodies of the member municipalities may  
11       appropriate funds to meet the expenses of the council.

12       (b) Funds. The council may accept funds, grants, gifts, and services from:

13            (1) the federal government;

14            (2) the State of Vermont or its agencies, departments, or  
15        instrumentalities;

16            (3) any other governmental unit, whether a member of the council or  
17        not; and

18            (4) private and civic sources.

19        (c) Staff. The council may employ any staff and consult and retain any  
20        experts that it considers necessary.

1     § 4950. POWERS AND DUTIES

2             (a) The council may:

3                 (1) Assist local governments in planning for common need and mutual  
4             benefit through cooperation and coordination. The council may undertake  
5             activities that it considers appropriate, including matters affecting health,  
6             safety, welfare, education, economic conditions, and development.

7                 (2) Promote cooperative arrangements and coordinate action among its  
8             members, including arrangements and actions with respect to planning,  
9             community development, joint purchasing, intermunicipal services and  
10            infrastructure.

11                (3) Make recommendations for review and action to its members and  
12            other public agencies that perform functions within the region.

13                (b) The council, on behalf of a majority of its member municipalities, may  
14            exercise any power, privilege, or authority capable of exercise by a member  
15            municipality and necessary or desirable for dealing with problems of local or  
16            regional concern, except essential legislative powers, taxing authority, or  
17            eminent domain power. This authority is in addition to any other authority  
18            granted to regional planning commissions in statute.

19                (c) Where a regional planning commission has been established, the  
20            member municipalities, by appropriate action, may provide for the transfer of

1     all assets, liabilities, rights, and obligations of the commission to the council  
2     and provide for the dissolution of the commission.

3     Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

4     This act shall take effect on passage.