

COG Testimony

Thank Committee for working with us on the last refinement of the duties of the RPC and this is a continuation of that process.

Want to start to have a discussion with Committee on this subject during the remainder of this session to determine strengths and weaknesses and come back next session to try and move it forward.

History of RPCs for new members (if needed)

- Established in the 1960's
- Originally wrote town plans and zoning documents
- Role of RPC's changing
 - More service orientated ex: brownfields, RLFs, transportation project prioritizations, community health assessments, emergency management response, EDA, economic development, solid waste, etc
- New and or expanded roles
 - Growing interest in Inter-municipal services and cooperation
 - All RPC did a survey of town regarding interest in sharing services
 - Initial results showed strong interest in the sharing of services in the following areas
 - Regional policing, joint purchasing, sharing of infrastructure and equipment, zoning etc.
 - Cost of municipal services is an issue for towns and lack of staff

COG Bill

- Promote high level of cooperation and understanding between state and local government
- RPCs are uniquely qualified to provide to assistance to towns on a multi-jurisdictional level, in developing policies and solutions to meet local needs.

Bill would provide a structure for municipalities so they don't have to re-create inter-municipal agreements each time they want to enter into a multi-town service compact.

- Establishment of COGs would be voluntary
- Existing boundaries would be maintained or if changed would follow existing statute
- Strive to have stronger municipal representation on board by having elected officials on board
- Towns could designate non-elected officials to serve