

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 838

S. P. 291

In Senate, February 14, 1973

Referred to the Committee on State Government. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Clifford of Androscoggin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Relating to Regional Planning.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 30, c. 239, sub-c. I-A, additional. Chapter 239 of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new subchapter I-A, to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER I-A

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

§ 4511. Establishment

Any 7 or more municipalities may, by vote of their municipal officers, join together to form a regional planning commission for the purpose of promoting cooperative efforts toward regional development, preparing and maintaining a comprehensive regional plan, coordinating with state and federal planning and development programs and providing planning assistance and advisory services to municipalities.

§ 4512. Incorporation; powers

Regional planning commissions shall incorporate under Title 13, chapter 81, and shall possess all powers of a corporation organized without capital stock except as limited by this subchapter.

§ 4513. Representation

Each member municipality shall have at least 2 representatives who shall be appointed by the municipal officers. Municipalities with populations

greater than 20,000, as determined by the last Decennial Census, shall have an additional representative for each 10,000 increment in population or part thereof over 20,000. At least one representative shall be a municipal officer or the chief administrative official of the municipality who shall serve at the pleasure of the municipal officers or until he ceases to hold municipal office. All other representatives shall serve for a term of 3 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.

§ 4514. Bylaws; records

The commission shall adopt bylaws not inconsistent with this subchapter designating the officers of the commission, and providing for the conduct of its business.

The minutes of the proceedings of the commission shall be filed in the office of the commission and shall be public record. Copies shall be provided to the municipal officers and planning board of each member municipality.

§ 4515. Finances

The commission shall prepare an annual budget and shall determine on an equitable basis the contribution of each member municipality toward the support of the commission.

The commission may accept funds, grants, gifts and services from the government of the United States or its agencies, from the State or its departments, agencies or instrumentalities, from any other governmental unit, whether a member or not, and from private and civic sources.

Sec 2. Transition provisions. Existing regional planning commissions shall incorporate, provide representation and otherwise comply with this subchapter within one year of the effective date of this Act.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 30, c. 239, sub-c. I-B, additional. Chapter 239 of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new subchapter I-B, to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER I-B

REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

§ 4521. Regional planning and development districts

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

In establishing standards and determining boundaries, the Governor, through the State Planning Office, shall afford all affected parties adequate notice and an opportunity to present relevant information and give appropriate consideration to geographic, demographic, social and economic factors of interdependence among communities.

2. **Revisions.** The Governor may, after consultation with the State Planning Office, regional planning commissions and the officers of the municipalities and counties involved, with the approval of the Legislature, revise the district boundaries to reflect changing conditions or otherwise to fulfill the purposes of this chapter.

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.

§ 4522. Planning and Program Review

1. **Authorized organizations.** The Governor shall upon request of a regional planning commission or a council of government authorize such organization to receive, review and comment on federal program grant applications which, if approved, would affect regional planning coordination and development within a regional planning and development district or sub-district.

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 30, c. 239, sub-c. I, §§ 4501 - 4505, repealed. Sections 4501 to 4505 of subchapter I of chapter 239 of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, are repealed.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide for regional planning commissions and districts.