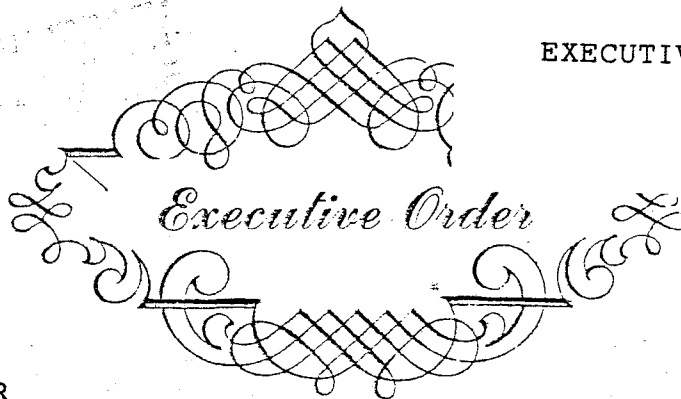


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE November 15, 1983

STATE POLICY ON REGIONAL COUNCILS

WHEREAS, the Blaine House Conference on State and Local Relations concluded that regional approaches to the delivery of government services should be encouraged, and that intergovernmental communication needs to be improved; and

WHEREAS, Regional Councils of Government which have the active participation of local elected officials can be effective in providing public services at the intermunicipal level, and in fostering communication among and between local and state officials;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH E. BRENNAN, Governor of the State of Maine, order that it shall be the policy of the State to encourage State-local partnership through cooperation with Regional Councils of Governments.

State and regional cooperation can be achieved in the following ways:

1. Regional Councils can provide a forum for local officials to exchange ideas, express views, and work with State and Federal officials to improve intergovernmental responsibilities and set priorities for public investments.
2. Regional Councils can provide assistance to local officials in understanding and implementing State programs.
3. Regional Councils can assist State and local governments to identify effective cost saving measures.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that State agencies shall use Regional Councils, as appropriate, to assist them in program planning, setting priorities, and delivering services to local governments.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, for the purposes outlined above, that Regional Councils will be defined as Councils of Governments (30 MRSA §1981-1986). This statute requires that at least half of the representatives of each member municipality in a Regional Council be municipal elected officials. Existing Regional Planning Commissions which are not organized as Councils of Governments shall reorganize themselves as Regional Councils not later than July 1, 1984.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and the State Planning Office shall together in consultation with local elected officials develop a strategy for the most effective use of Regional Councils in our intergovernmental system. And shall submit their recommendations to me by December 1, 1984, outlining further actions necessary to ensure the effectiveness of Regional Councils.


JOSEPH E. BRENNAN
Governor