



Connecticut

Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association

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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

PROPOSED H.B. 6169 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES

SUMMARY: The proposed bill would restore funding to regional planning organizations as a regular budget line item.

ANALYSIS: Regional Planning Agencies provide planning support and inter-municipal coordination that is essential for emergency planning, land use planning including zoning assistance, open space planning and implementation, and other planning functions. Regional coordination of such planning is a key element of the implementation of smart growth strategies. Smart growth concepts under consideration by the Legislature this year, based in part on the Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Property Tax Burdens and Smart Growth Incentives, recognize the need to rely more heavily on regional planning.

Although historically funded as a budget line item in the Office of Policy and Management, support for RPAs was recently provided through the Department of Transportation from Transportation Strategy Board funds. However, it is not now clear that his funding arrangement can be continued under the current budget condition of the DOT.

FISCAL IMPACT: There would be no direct fiscal impacts to municipalities.

CCAPA POSITION: The Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association supports the commitment of resources necessary for effective planning at the State, regional, and local levels. We strongly endorse this proposal to restore funding for Regional Planning Agencies as a regular line item in the State budget to ensure continuity in the functions of the RPAs.