

SENATE No. 963

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Richard T. Moore

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to promote municipal collaboration and regionalization throughout the commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Richard T. Moore

Worcester and Norfolk

Jason M. Lewis

31st Middlesex

SENATE No. 963

By Mr. Richard T. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 963) of Richard T. Moore and Jason M. Lewis for legislation to promote municipal efficiency and innovation through regional collaboration. Municipalities and Regional Government.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION

SEE

□ □ SENATE
□ , NO. 1046 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act to promote municipal collaboration and regionalization throughout the commonwealth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The following terms shall have the following meanings:
2 “Regional Planning Agencies”, all planning commissions in the commonwealth,
3 specifically: “Berkshire Regional Planning Commission”, established under section 3 of chapter
4 40B of the General Laws; “Cape Cod Commission”, established under chapter 716 of the acts of
5 1989; “Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission”, established under section 3 of
6 said chapter 40B; “Franklin Regional Council of Governments”, established under section 567 of
7 chapter 151 of the acts of 1996, and as amended by chapter 344 of the acts of 1998; “Martha’s
8 Vineyard Commission”, established under chapter 831 of the acts of 1977, and as amended by
9 chapter 317 of the acts of 1979; “Merrimack Valley Planning Commission”, established under
10 section 3 of said chapter 40B; “Metropolitan Area Planning Council”, established under section
11 26 of said chapter 40B; “Montachusett Regional Planning Commission”, established under
12 section 3 of said chapter 40B; “Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission”,
13 established under chapter 561 of the acts of 1973, and as amended by chapter 98 of the acts of
14 1981 and chapter 458 of the acts of 1991; “Northern Middlesex Council of Governments”,
15 established under section 3 of said chapter 40B, and as amended by chapter 357 of the acts of

16 1972, chapter 14 of the acts of 1974 and chapter 420 of the acts of 1989; “Old Colony Planning
17 Council”, established under chapter 332 of the acts of 1967, and as amended by chapter 663 of
18 the acts of 1973; “Pioneer Valley Planning Commission”, established under section 3 of said
19 chapter 40B, and “Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District”,
20 established under section 9 of said chapter 40B.

21 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, the governor
22 shall direct all executive branch agencies, commissions and departments to evaluate all grant,
23 loan, and technical assistance programs administered by such for opportunities to promote,
24 facilitate and implement inter-municipal cooperation, collaboration, and regional service delivery
25 at the local level.

26 Each department, agency, and commission within the executive branch shall provide
27 evaluation results to the governor within 90 days, with the goal to identify opportunities to
28 leverage state resources to promote regional, efficient solutions to common problems.
29 Independent agencies and commissions are encouraged to undertake similar evaluations of any
30 grant, loan, or technical assistance program administered by them.

31 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, the governor
32 shall direct the chairman of the municipal affairs coordinating cabinet to evaluate departmental
33 programs for opportunities to increase collaboration between communities, and make
34 recommendations to the governor on the most promising opportunities that would achieve the
35 aforementioned aims of efficient and enhanced local government service delivery.

36 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, any executive
37 agency which administers a program through which funding may be provided to a municipality,
38 shall encourage municipal efficiencies by prioritizing those applications for funds which come
39 from cities or towns that have developed a method by which to jointly and more efficiently
40 utilize such funding.

41 SECTION 5. Section 22A of chapter 7 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010
42 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the words “the state purchasing agent subject to
43 such rules, regulations and procedures as may be established from time to time by the purchasing
44 agent” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “the state purchasing agent or a
45 regional planning agency established pursuant to chapter 40B of the General Laws or special act,
46 subject to such rules, regulations and procedures as may be established from time to time by said
47 purchasing agent or regional planning agency.”

48 SECTION 6. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, the governor
49 shall direct the executive office of administration and finance to amend 801 C.M.R. 21.00 to
50 state that contracts between regional planning agencies and any executive office, department,
51 agency, office, division, board, commission or institution within the executive branch to provide

52 or to receive services, facilities, staff assistance or money payments shall be the equivalent of
53 interdepartmental service agreements and exempt from the provisions of 801 C.M.R. 21.00.

54 SECTION 7. Section 5 of chapter 40B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010
55 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the second paragraph the following
56 paragraphs:-

57 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, planning
58 commissions established hereunder may administer and provide regional services to member
59 cities and towns and may delegate such authority to subregional groups of such cities and towns.
60 Planning commissions may enter into cooperative agreements with other planning commissions
61 or regional councils of government to provide such regional services.

62 Regional services provided to member municipalities shall be determined by each
63 planning commission's executive committee, and may include any service which may be
64 provided by the municipality or any other public entity in the commonwealth. In the event that
65 an executive committee has not been established, such services shall be determined by the
66 district planning commission.

67 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, any city or town
68 which is a member of the planning commission may enter into a cooperative agreement with said
69 commission to perform jointly or for the other or in cooperation with other member cities and
70 towns, any service, activity or undertaking which such city or town is authorized by law to
71 perform.

72 All cooperative agreements entered into pursuant to this section by member cities and
73 towns are voluntary, and notwithstanding any other law, require authorization by the relevant
74 board of selectmen or city council, with the approval of the mayor.

75 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, planning
76 commissions are authorized to enter into contracts and agreements with any department, agency
77 or subdivision of the federal or state government and any individual, corporation, association or
78 public authority to provide or receive services, facilities, staff assistance or money payments in
79 connection with the work of planning commissions, and planning commissions may contribute
80 or receive services, facilities, staff assistance or money payments as consideration such contracts
81 and agreements.

82 SECTION 8. Section 14 of said chapter 40B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
83 inserting after subsection (o) the following subsections:-

84 (p) notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, to administer and
85 provide regional services to member cities and towns and may delegate such authority to
86 subregional groups of such cities and towns. The commission may enter into cooperative

87 agreements with other planning commissions or regional councils of government to provide such
88 regional services. Regional services provided to member municipalities shall be determined by
89 the executive committee and may include any service which may be provided by the
90 municipality or any other public entity in the commonwealth.

91 (q) notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, any city or town
92 which is a member of the district may enter into a cooperative agreement with the commission to
93 perform jointly or for the other or in cooperation with other member cities and towns, any
94 service, activity or undertaking which such city or town is authorized by law to perform.

95 (r) all cooperative agreements entered into pursuant to subsection (p) or (q) of this section
96 by member cities and towns are voluntary, and notwithstanding any other law, require
97 authorization by the relevant board of selectmen or city council, with the approval of the mayor.

98 SECTION 9. Said chapter 40B is hereby further amended by inserting after the final
99 paragraph of section 29 the following sections:-

100 Section 29A. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, the
101 council is authorized to administer and provide regional services to member cities and towns and
102 may delegate such authority to subregional groups of such cities and towns. The council may
103 enter into cooperative agreements with other planning commissions or regional councils of
104 government to provide such regional services.

105 Regional services provided to member municipalities shall be determined by the
106 executive committee and may include any service which may be provided by the municipality or
107 any other public entity in the commonwealth.

108 Section 29B. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, any city
109 or town which is a member of the council may enter into a cooperative agreement with said
110 council to perform jointly or for the other or in cooperation with other member cities and towns,
111 any service, activity or undertaking which such city or town is authorized by law to perform.

112 Section 29C. All cooperative agreements entered into by member cities and towns
113 pursuant to section 29A or section 29B are voluntary, and notwithstanding any other law, require
114 authorization by the relevant board of selectmen or city council, with the approval of the mayor.

115 SECTION 10. Section 4 of chapter 716 of the acts of 1989 is hereby amended by
116 inserting after subsection (a)(27) the following subsections:-

117 (28) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section of this chapter, to administer
118 and provide regional services to member cities and towns and may delegate such authority to
119 subregional groups of such cities and towns. The commission may enter into cooperative
120 agreements with other planning commissions or regional councils of government to provide such
121 regional services. Regional services provided to member municipalities shall be determined by

122 the commission and may include any service which may be provided by the municipality or any
123 other public entity in the commonwealth.

124 (29) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, any city or town
125 which is a member of the commission may enter into a cooperative agreement with said
126 commission to perform jointly or for the other or in cooperation with other member cities and
127 towns, any service, activity or undertaking which such city or town is authorized by law to
128 perform.

129 (30) All cooperative agreements entered into by member cities and towns pursuant to
130 subsections (28) and (29) of this section are voluntary, and notwithstanding any other law,
131 require authorization by the relevant board of selectmen or city council, with the approval of the
132 mayor.

133 (31) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, the commission
134 is authorized to: enter into contracts and agreements with any department, agency or subdivision
135 of the federal or state government and any individual, corporation, association or public authority
136 to provide or receive services, facilities, staff assistance or money payments in connection with
137 the work of the commission, and the commission may contribute or receive services, facilities,
138 staff assistance or money payments as consideration such contracts and agreements.

139 SECTION 11. Section 3 of chapter 831 of the acts of 1977 is hereby amended by
140 inserting after the fourth paragraph the following section:-

141 Section 3A. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section of this chapter, the
142 commission may administer and provide regional services to member cities and towns and may
143 delegate such authority to subregional groups of such cities and towns. The commission may
144 enter into cooperative agreements with other planning commissions or regional councils of
145 government to provide such regional services.

146 Regional services provided to member municipalities shall be determined by the
147 commission and may include any service which may be provided by the municipality or any
148 other public entity in the commonwealth.

149 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, any city or town
150 which is a member of the commission may enter into a cooperative agreement with said
151 commission to perform jointly or for the other or in cooperation with other member cities and
152 towns, any service, activity or undertaking which such city or town is authorized by law to
153 perform.

154 All cooperative agreements entered into by member cities and towns pursuant to section
155 3A are voluntary, and notwithstanding any other law, require authorization by the relevant board
156 of selectmen or city council, with the approval of the mayor.

157 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, the commission is
158 authorized to enter into contracts and agreements with any department, agency or subdivision of
159 the federal or state government and any individual, corporation, association or public authority to
160 provide or receive services, facilities, staff assistance or money payments in connection with the
161 work of the commission, and the commission may contribute or receive services, facilities, staff
162 assistance or money payments as consideration such contracts and agreements.

163 SECTION 12. Section 2 of chapter 561 of the acts of 1973 is hereby amended by
164 inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraphs:-

165 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, the commission may
166 administer and provide regional services to the county and town. The commission may enter into
167 cooperative agreements with other planning commissions or regional councils of government to
168 provide such regional services.

169 Regional services provided to the county and town shall be determined by the
170 commission and may include any service which may be provided by the municipality or any
171 other public entity in the commonwealth.

172 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, the county and town
173 which is a member of the commission may enter into a cooperative agreement with said
174 commission to perform jointly any service, activity or undertaking which such county or town is
175 authorized by law to perform.

176 All agreements entered into by the county or town pursuant to this section are voluntary,
177 and notwithstanding any other law, require authorization by the board of selectmen.

178 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, the commission is
179 authorized to enter into contracts and agreements with any department, agency or subdivision of
180 the federal or state government and any individual, corporation, association or public authority to
181 provide or receive services, facilities, staff assistance or money payments in connection with the
182 work of the commission, and the commission may contribute or receive services, facilities, staff
183 assistance or money payments as consideration such contracts and agreements.

184 SECTION 13. Section 2 of chapter 332 of the acts of 1967 is hereby amended by
185 inserting after the seventh paragraph the following section:-

186 Section 2A. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, the
187 council may administer and provide regional services to member cities and towns and may
188 delegate such authority to subregional groups of such cities and towns. The council may enter
189 into cooperative agreements with other planning commissions or regional councils of
190 government to provide such regional services.

191 Regional services provided to member municipalities shall be determined by the council
192 and may include any service which may be provided by the municipality or any other public
193 entity in the commonwealth.

194 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, any city or town
195 which is a member of the council may enter into a cooperative agreement with said council to
196 perform jointly or for the other or in cooperation with other member cities and towns, any
197 service, activity or undertaking which such city or town is authorized by law to perform.

198 All agreements entered into by member cities and towns pursuant to this section are
199 voluntary, and notwithstanding any other law, require authorization by the relevant board of
200 selectmen or city council, with the approval of the mayor.

201 SECTION 14. Subsection (U) of section 567 of chapter 151 of the acts of 1996 is hereby
202 amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraphs:-

203 Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, the Franklin Council of Governments may
204 administer and provide regional services to member cities and towns and may delegate such
205 authority to subregional groups of such cities and towns. The Council of Governments may enter
206 into cooperative agreements with other planning commissions or regional councils of
207 government to provide such regional services.

208 Regional services provided to member municipalities shall be determined by the Council
209 of Governments Committee and may include any service which may be provided by the
210 municipality or any other public entity in the commonwealth.

211 All agreements entered into by member cities and towns pursuant to this section are
212 voluntary, and notwithstanding any other law, require authorization by the relevant board of
213 selectmen or city council, with the approval of the mayor.

214 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other section in this chapter, the Franklin Council
215 of Governments is authorized to enter into contracts and agreements with any department,
216 agency or subdivision of the federal or state government and any individual, corporation,
217 association or public authority to provide or receive services, facilities, staff assistance or money
218 payments in connection with the work of the commission, and the commission may contribute or
219 receive services, facilities, staff assistance or money payments as consideration such contracts
220 and agreements.

221 SECTION 15. Section 2 of chapter 40D of the General Laws is hereby amended by
222 striking out, in the first paragraph, the words “a town at an annual meeting or a special meeting
223 called for the purpose” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “by the board of
224 selectmen, in a town.”

225 SECTION 16. Said section 2 of said chapter 40D of the General Laws is hereby amended
226 by striking out, in the third paragraph, the words “at an annual or special town meeting” and
227 inserting in place thereof the following words:- “its board of selectmen.”

228 SECTION 17. Section 3 of chapter 121C of the General Laws is hereby amended by
229 striking out the words “a town at an annual town meeting or a special town meeting called for the
230 purpose” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “by the board of selectmen in a
231 town.”

232 SECTION 18. Section 30B of chapter 41, as amended by section 26 of chapter 188 of the
233 acts of 2010, is hereby amended by striking out the words “by vote of their legislative bodies”
234 and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “by vote of the city council with the approval
235 of the mayor, in a city, and by vote of the board of selectmen, in a town.”

236 SECTION 19. Section 27B of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
237 hereby amended by striking out the words “and by vote of a town at a regular annual town
238 meeting” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “and by a vote of the board of
239 selectmen.”

240 SECTION 20. Said section 27B of said chapter 111 of the General Laws, as so appearing,
241 is hereby amended by striking the words “at a town meeting” and inserting in place thereof the
242 following:- “by vote of the board of selectmen.”

243 SECTION 21. Section 44A of chapter 40 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
244 amended by striking out the words “a town meeting” and inserting thereof the following words:-
245 the board of selectmen.

246 SECTION 22. Said section 44A of said chapter 40, is hereby amended by striking the
247 word “moderator” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- board of selectmen.

248 SECTION 23. Said section 44A of said chapter 40, is hereby amended by striking Section
249 44E and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

250 Section 44E. The selectmen of each of the several towns, upon receipt of a
251 recommendation that a regional refuse disposal district be established, shall vote on accepting
252 such plan. The mayors of the several cities, upon receipt of a recommendation that a regional
253 refuse disposal district be established, shall submit the question of accepting such plan to the city
254 council within sixty days after receipt of the recommendation.

255 If a majority of the members of each city council voting on the question and the board of
256 selectmen in each town shall vote in the affirmative, the proposed regional refuse disposal
257 district shall be deemed to be established forthwith in accordance with the terms of the proposed
258 agreement.”

259 SECTION 24. Subsection subsection (f) of said section 44 of said chapter is hereby
260 amended by striking the words “a majority of the voters present and voting on the matter at a
261 town meeting called for the purpose of expressing such disapproval” and inserting in place
262 thereof the following words:- the board of selectmen.

263 SECTION 25. Section 3 of chapter 115, is hereby amended by striking out the last
264 sentence in the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- Two or
265 more municipalities may, by approval of the mayor or manager in a city or by vote of the board
266 of selectmen in a town, appoint one person to serve as veterans’ agent for such municipalities
267 and may apportion the payment of compensation among such municipalities.

268 SECTION 26. Section 10 of said chapter 115, is hereby amended by striking out the first
269 sentence of the second paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- Two or
270 more municipalities may, in a city by vote of the city council thereof, and in a town by vote of
271 the selectmen thereof, form a district for the purposes set forth in the first paragraph of this
272 section, including the appointment and compensation of a director of veterans’ services, for the
273 enforcement therein of such purposes and of such other provisions of law as it may be his duty to
274 enforce.

275 SECTION 27. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after section 4A of
276 chapter 40 the following section:-

277 Section 4A½. (a) For purposes of this section, the following words shall have the
278 following meanings:-

279 “Governmental unit”, a city, town or a regional school district, a district as defined in
280 section 1A, a regional planning commission, however constituted, a regional transit authority
281 established under chapter 161B, a water and sewer commission established under chapter 40N or
282 by special law, a county, or a state agency as defined in section 1 of chapter 6A.

283 “Joint powers agreement”, a contract specifying the terms and conditions of the joint
284 exercise of powers and duties entered into by participating governmental units pursuant to the
285 laws governing any such unit and the provisions of this section.

286 “Region”, any geographically-designated area within which the powers and duties
287 provided in a joint powers agreement shall be exercised.

288 (b) Notwithstanding any general law or special act to the contrary, the chief executive
289 officer of a city or town, or a board, committee or officer authorized by law to execute a contract
290 in the name of a governmental unit may, on behalf of the unit, enter into a joint powers
291 agreement with another governmental unit for the joint exercise of any of their common powers
292 and duties within a designated region. The joint powers agreement shall be authorized by the
293 parties thereto in the following manner: in a city by the city council with the approval of the

294 mayor, in a town by the board of selectmen and in a district by the prudential committee. A
295 decision to enter into a joint powers agreement under this section, or to join an existing region,
296 shall not be subject to bargaining under chapter 150E.

297 (c) The joint powers agreement shall specify:

298 (1) its purpose and the method by which the purpose sought shall be accomplished;

299 (2) the services, activities or undertakings to be jointly performed within the region;

300 (3) the specific organization, composition and nature of any separate legal or
301 administrative entity created thereby to perform the services, activities or undertakings within the
302 region, and the specific powers and duties delegated thereto, provided such entity may be legally
303 created. Such entity may include an independent entity created pursuant to subsection (d), a
304 nonprofit corporation organized pursuant to chapter 180 whose membership is limited solely to
305 the participating governmental units, a limited partnership organized pursuant to chapter 109
306 whose membership is limited solely to the participating governmental units, or a limited liability
307 company organized under chapter 156C whose membership is limited solely to the participating
308 governmental units. The funds of any such entity, corporation, limited partnership, or limited
309 liability company shall be subject to audit in the manner provided by law for the auditing of
310 public funds.

311 (4) the manner of financing the joint services, activities or undertakings within the
312 region and of establishing and maintaining a budget therefore;

313 (5) any procedures related to the termination of the joint powers agreement, the
314 withdrawal of any participating governmental unit and the addition of any new governmental
315 units.

316 (6) its duration.

317 (d) A joint powers agreement may create a new independent entity for the purposes of
318 carrying out the powers and duties of a region. The powers of an entity established pursuant to
319 this subsection shall include, but not be limited to, the power to: (1) sue and be sued; (2) make
320 and execute contracts and other instruments necessary for the exercise of the powers of the
321 region; (3) make and from time to time amend and repeal policies and procedures relative to the
322 operation of the region; (4) receive and expend funds; (5) apply for and receive grants from the
323 commonwealth, the federal government and from other grantors; and (6) any such other powers
324 as are necessary to properly carry out its powers as an independent entity.

325 Such entity shall be governed by a board of directors comprised of at least one member
326 representing each participating governmental unit. The board of directors shall coordinate the
327 activities of the region and may establish any policies and procedures necessary to do so.

328 The board of directors shall establish and manage a fund to which all monies contributed
329 by the participating governmental units, and all grants and gifts from the federal or state
330 government or any other source shall be deposited. The board of directors shall appoint a
331 treasurer who may be a treasurer of one of the participating governmental units. The treasurer,
332 subject to the direction and approval of the board of directors, shall be authorized to receive,
333 invest and disburse all funds of the region without further appropriation. The treasurer shall give
334 bond for the faithful performance of his duties in a form and amount as fixed by the board of
335 directors.

336 The board of directors may borrow money, enter into long or short-term loan agreements
337 or mortgages and apply for state, federal or corporate grants or contracts to obtain funds
338 necessary to carry out the purposes of the region. The board of directors may enter into contracts
339 for the purchase of supplies, materials and services and for the purchase or lease of land,
340 buildings and equipment as deemed necessary.

341 The entity shall be deemed to be a public employer and the board of directors may
342 employ personnel to carry out the purposes of the joint powers agreement and establish the
343 duties, compensation and other terms and conditions of employment of personnel.

344 (e) A participating governmental unit shall not liable for the acts or omission of another
345 participating government unit or the region or any entity created by the joint powers agreement,
346 unless the participating governmental unit has agreed otherwise in the joint powers agreement.

347 SECTION 28. There shall be established and set upon the books of the commonwealth a
348 separate fund to be known as the Regionalization Incentive and Implementation Fund. Amounts
349 credited to the fund shall be administered by the division of local services within the department
350 of revenue which shall determine that the funds are used for activities consistent with the
351 purpose of this act and the Massachusetts management and accounting report system. The
352 amounts shall be used, without further appropriation, solely for the administration and
353 implementation of this section.

354 The fund shall be a separate and expendable trust fund administered by the division of
355 local services within the department of revenue. There shall be credited to the fund, revenue
356 from appropriations or other monies authorized by the general court and specifically designated
357 to be credited to the fund and investment income earned on the fund's assets, and all other
358 sources. Money remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General
359 Fund, and shall be allocated to the fund the following fiscal year.

360 One hundred percent of the monies deposited in the Regional Incentive and
361 Implementation Fund, but not more than \$4,000,000.00 in the aggregate in any fiscal year, shall
362 be used by the department of housing and community development within the executive office of
363 housing and economic development to provide grants on a competitive basis to districts and
364 municipalities, including councils of government and regional planning agencies that are

365 applying on behalf of two or more municipal entities, to fund the regionalization of municipal
366 services including, but not limited to, the areas of planning, implementation, transitional costs,
367 staff, operations, equipment, hardware, facilities, the subsidization of salaries for positions to
368 perform municipal functions jointly and projects to implement joint services, and related subject
369 areas.

370 Grant applications shall be reviewed by a panel including the department of housing and
371 community development, executive office of administration and finance and department of
372 revenue division of local services.

373 The department of housing and community development shall promulgate rules and
374 regulations for the administration of the Regionalization Incentive and Implementation Fund.