



H.B. 147

124th General Assembly

(As Introduced)

Reps. Seaver, S. Smith, Key, Patton, Strahorn, D. Miller, Ford, Britton, Redfern, Sullivan, Boccieri, Rhine, DePiero, Distel, Sykes, Jones, Woodard, Allen

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Department of Education to distribute information to school district boards of education describing the boards' authority to form and join regional councils of government for the purpose of joint purchase of goods and to assist districts to form such councils.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Regional council of governments

Under current law, the governing bodies of two or more political subdivisions, including school districts, may enter into an agreement for the establishment of a regional council of governments (sec. 167.01, not in the bill). A regional council has authority to study governmental problems, promote cooperative arrangements, perform planning functions, and make recommendations (sec. 167.03, not in the bill).

A regional council, by appropriate action of the governing bodies of its members, may perform "functions and duties as are performed or capable of performance by the members and necessary or desirable for dealing with problems of mutual concern." In addition, the council may contract with its members or other political subdivisions to provide or receive services or to perform any function or render any service on behalf of a political subdivision that the political subdivision may perform or render. A regional council may act as a joint purchasing agency for its members, but is bound by any competitive bidding requirements of the political subdivision for which the purchase is being made. (Secs. 167.03 and 167.08, not in the bill.)¹

¹ See generally, 1998 Ohio Op. Atty. Gen. No. 98-004, at 686-687; 1969 Ohio Op. Atty. Gen. No. 013.

A regional council of governments has no authority to levy taxes or issue bonds. It receives money from its member governments, and it may establish schedules of dues for them to pay. Members also are permitted to provide services of personnel, use of equipment, office space, and other services. In addition, the council may receive gifts from governmental units or from private or civic sources. (Sec. 167.06, not in the bill.)

Operation of the bill

(sec. 3301.0728)

The bill requires the Department of Education to develop information materials for distribution to school district boards of education describing the boards' authority to form and join regional councils of government. The bill notes that regional councils may be used, among other purposes, to jointly purchase goods, such as textbooks, supplies, furniture, and equipment, for two or more school districts or other political subdivisions. The information that the Department must develop and distribute to each school district board must include examples of the ways in which cost savings could be realized from joint purchasing.

Additionally, the bill requires the Department to provide technical assistance upon request to school district boards that decide to form regional councils of government.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	03-06-01	p. 210