

## **Existing State Statutes Enabling Joint Municipal or Regionally-Based Activities**

Summarized below are a number of examples of existing state laws that enable municipalities to enter into either regional or inter-municipal agreements for myriad purposes, such as to pursue economic development, regional and charter schools, and municipal shared services jointly.

### **Public Act 09-231 – AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONALISM**

This legislation authorizes chief elected officials of two or more municipalities that are members of the same federal economic development district, established under 42 USC 3171 to initiate a process to enter into mutual agreement to: (1) promote regional economic development and (2) share the real and personal property tax revenue from new economic development. The agreement shall: (1) specify that municipalities agree not to compete for new economic development and (2) specify the types of new economic development projects subject to the terms of the agreement.

### **Public Act 09-60 - AN ACT CONCERNING A MUNICIPAL OPTION TO DELAY REVALUATIONS, A PROGRAM ALLOWING REGIONAL REVALUATIONS, AND THE REPEAL OF THE MUNICIPAL OPTION TO MAKE ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS IN PROPERTY VALUES**

Section 2 of this act authorizes any two or more towns to enter into an agreement to establish a regional revaluation program. Towns participating in such an agreement must provide for the revaluation of all parcels of real property encompassed within such towns at the same time and not less than once every five years, or must annually revalue approximately one-fifth of all such parcels over a five-year period. The act specifically allows a regional planning organization to be the coordinating agency to oversee a regional revaluation program.

### **CGS Sec. 7-136n - Joint issuance of bonds by two or more municipalities**

This statute authorizes two or more municipalities to jointly issue bonds at their discretion, subject to the approval of the legislative body of each municipality. These bonds can be issues for the purposes of paying all or any part of the cost of any project or activity, including acquisition of necessary land and equipment therefore, entered into jointly.

### **CGS Section 7-137 - Regional economic development commissions**

The statute authorizes any two or more towns, cities or boroughs having economic development commissions to join in the formation of a regional economic development commission. The area of jurisdiction of the regional commission shall be coterminous with the area of the municipalities so joining. The economic development commissions of the municipalities comprising the regional commission shall jointly determine the membership of the regional commission. A regional commission shall have the same duties and authority, in respect to its area of jurisdiction, as a municipal commission has in respect to the municipality.

### **CGS Section 7-148bb - Agreement between municipalities to share revenue received for payment of property taxes**

This statute authorizes the chief executive officers of two or more towns, cities, or boroughs to negotiate an agreement to share real and personal property tax revenue. The public must have an opportunity to participate during the negotiation process. Each participating municipality's legislative body must approve the agreement by resolution. The agreement must contain all of the provisions on which the municipalities agree and procedures for amending, terminating, and withdrawing from it. The provisions can identify the tax revenue to be shared and collection and distribution mechanisms. Municipalities can enter these agreements notwithstanding other state laws, charters, or home rule ordinances.

### **CGS Section 7-148cc - Joint performance of municipal functions**

This statute authorizes two or more municipalities to “jointly perform any function that each municipality may perform separately”. Each municipality is required to approve the agreement for joint action in the same manner as provided for the approval of an ordinance. The terms of each agreement shall establish a process for withdrawal from such agreement and shall require that the agreement be reviewed at least once every five years by the body that approved the agreement to assess the effectiveness of such agreement in enhancing the performance of the function that is the subject of the agreement.

### **CGS Section 7-277a - Police Assistance Agreements**

This statute authorizes two or more municipalities to enter into an agreement for the temporary assignment of police personnel from one municipality to another. The agreement allows the chief executive officer of a participating municipality to request assistance from other participating towns when he or she determines it to be necessary "to protect the safety or well being of his municipality." For example, East Windsor and its neighboring municipalities (South Windsor, Manchester, East Hartford, Coventry, Glastonbury, Windsor, Hartford and the Connecticut State Police) have entered into an agreement to cooperate on mutual police assistance.

### **CGS Sections 7-333 through 7-339 – Metropolitan Districts**

A Metropolitan District is a regional body formed when a central city establishes a relationship with any number of municipalities within the metropolitan area for the performance of any function, service or work that each municipality can perform on its own. Metropolitan districts are formed by a vote of the legislative bodies of participating municipalities or by the petition of the electors of those municipalities. Such a district may adopt a charter establishing its powers, duties, and means of financing. It is governed by a commission consisting of five to fifteen members selected by the legislative bodies of the participating municipalities.

### **CGS Section 7-339a through 7-339l - Inter-local Agreements**

Chapter 105 of the Connecticut General Statutes authorizes public agencies to develop and implement inter-local agreements to provide for a number of shared services, equipment and other assets. The legislative body of any public agency may vote to enter into an inter-local agreement with any other public agency. Such action may be taken after a proposed agreement is submitted to the legislative body of each potential participating member and a public hearing is conducted. Once the legislative bodies have approved an agreement, an Inter-Local Advisory Board comprised of representatives from each of the participating agencies is formed. Agreements may provide for the contracting of services, personnel, and equipment between or among participating agencies, and must include certain specified provisions, such as cost sharing, the resolution of disputes and the receipt of state or federal funds.

### **CGS Section 8-139 - Joint action by two or more municipalities**

This statute authorizes the legislative bodies of two or more municipalities to: (a) create a regional or metropolitan planning agency and to authorize such agency or the planning agency of any of such municipalities to make a comprehensive or general plan of the area included within such municipalities as described in section 8-127, and (b) exercise the powers granted in this chapter to the legislative body of any municipality. In all matters under this chapter requiring the approval of the legislative body, such approval shall be by the legislative body of each municipality only as to the portions of the redevelopment plan situated in such municipality.

### **CGS Section 8-169j - Joint activity by two or more municipalities**

This statute authorizes two or more contiguous municipalities to enter into an agreement for the purpose of jointly carrying out a community development activity. Such an agreement may include provisions for furnishing municipal services to the project and sharing costs of and revenues from the project, including property taxes and rental receipts. The statute also authorizes each municipality that is a party to the agreement to make appropriations and levy taxes and issue bonds in accordance with current laws.

**CGS Section 8-196 - Joint projects**

Any two or more municipalities by vote of their respective legislative bodies may, through their respective development agencies, jointly initiate a development project where the project area is to be located in one or more of such towns, and after approval by the commissioner of the project plan therefore if any state aid is to be requested under section 8-190 or 8-195, enter into, and thereafter amend, an agreement for the purposes of jointly carrying out the project plan through their respective development agencies, which agreement may include provisions for furnishing municipal services to, and sharing costs of, and revenues, including property tax and rental receipts, from, the development project. A proposed form of the agreement to be entered into by such towns shall be included as part of the project plan. In furtherance of its obligations under such an agreement, each town which is a party thereto may make appropriations and levy taxes in accordance with the provisions of the general statutes and may issue bonds in accordance with section 8-192.

**CGS Section 32-224(f) - Provisions of joint municipal development projects**

This statute authorizes the implementing agencies of two or more municipalities, after approval by each municipality's legislative body, to jointly initiate a development project if the project area is to be located in one or more of such municipalities. After approval by the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development of the development plan for any project for which state aid is to be requested under CGS Section 32-223, such implementing agencies may enter into and amend an agreement to jointly carry out the development plan. Such an agreement may include provisions for furnishing municipal services to the project and sharing costs of and revenues from the project, including property tax and rental receipts. The development plan shall include a proposed form of the agreement to be entered into by the municipalities. Each municipality which is a party to an agreement may make appropriations and levy taxes in accordance with the provisions of the general statutes and may issue bonds in accordance with CGS Section 32-227 to further its obligations under the agreement.