



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 623**

January Session, 2025

House Bill No. 7144

*House of Representatives, April 9, 2025*

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. KAVROS DEGRAW of the 17th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FROM THE REGIONAL PLANNING INCENTIVE ACCOUNT TO EACH REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR THE HIRING OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 4-66k of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) There is established an account to be known as the "regional  
4 planning incentive account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing  
5 account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys  
6 required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account  
7 shall be expended by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
8 Management for the purposes of first providing funding to regional  
9 planning organizations in accordance with the provisions of this section,  
10 next providing grants for the support of regional election advisors  
11 pursuant to section 9-229c and then providing grants under the regional

12 performance incentive program established pursuant to section 4-124s.

13 (b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, funds from the regional  
14 planning incentive account shall be distributed to each regional  
15 planning organization, as defined in section 4-124i of the general  
16 statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013, in the amount of  
17 one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars. Any regional council of  
18 governments that is comprised of any two or more regional planning  
19 organizations that voluntarily consolidate on or before December 31,  
20 2013, shall receive an additional payment in an amount equal to the  
21 amount the regional planning organizations would have received if  
22 such regional planning organizations had not voluntarily consolidated.

23 [(c)] (2) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, to June 30, 2021,  
24 inclusive, funds from the regional planning incentive account shall be  
25 distributed to each regional council of governments formed pursuant to  
26 section 4-124j, in the amount of one hundred twenty-five thousand  
27 dollars plus fifty cents per capita, using population information from  
28 the most recent federal decennial census. Any regional council of  
29 governments that is comprised of any two or more regional planning  
30 organizations, as defined in section 4-124i of the general statutes,  
31 revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013, that voluntarily consolidated  
32 on or before December 31, 2013, shall receive a payment in the amount  
33 of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars for each such regional  
34 planning organization that voluntarily consolidated on or before said  
35 date.

36 [(d) (1)] (3) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023,  
37 funds from the regional planning incentive account shall be distributed  
38 to each regional council of governments formed pursuant to section 4-  
39 124j, in the amount of one hundred eighty-five thousand five hundred  
40 dollars plus sixty-eight cents per capita, using population information  
41 from the most recent federal decennial census.

42 [(2)] (4) For the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2024, and [each  
43 fiscal year thereafter] June 30, 2025, funds from the regional planning  
44 incentive account shall be distributed to the regional [council] councils

45 of governments formed pursuant to section 4-124j, in the amount  
46 totaling seven million dollars. Such funds shall be distributed under a  
47 formula determined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
48 Management in consultation with the regional [council] councils of  
49 governments, that includes (A) a base payment amount payable to each  
50 such regional council, and (B) a per capita payment amount to each such  
51 regional council based upon population data for each such regional  
52 council from the most recent federal decennial census. [Such formula  
53 shall be reviewed and updated every five years after the initial adoption  
54 of such formula.]

55 (5) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year  
56 thereafter, funds from the regional planning incentive account shall be  
57 distributed to the regional councils of governments formed pursuant to  
58 section 4-124j as follows: (A) Each such regional council shall receive  
59 four hundred thousand dollars, for the purpose of funding three  
60 positions within each such council, including, but not limited to, a  
61 regional building inspector position, to provide technical support for  
62 the planning and development of additional housing in each such  
63 council's region, and (B) an amount totaling seven million dollars shall  
64 be distributed under a formula determined by the Secretary of the Office  
65 of Policy and Management in consultation with the regional councils of  
66 governments, that includes (i) a base payment amount payable to each  
67 such regional council, and (ii) a per capita payment amount to each such  
68 regional council based upon population data for each such regional  
69 council from the most recent federal decennial census. Such formula  
70 shall be reviewed and updated every five years after the initial adoption  
71 of such formula.

72 [(3)] (c) Not later than July 1, 2021, and annually thereafter, each  
73 regional council of governments shall submit to the secretary a proposal  
74 for expenditure of the funds described in [subdivision (1) of this]  
75 subsection (b) of this section. Such proposal may include, but need not  
76 be limited to, a description of [(A)] (1) functions, activities or services  
77 currently performed by the state or municipalities that may be provided  
78 in a more efficient, cost-effective, responsive or higher quality manner

79 by such council, a regional educational service center or similar regional  
80 entity; [(B)] (2) anticipated cost savings relating to the sharing of  
81 government services, including, but not limited to, joint purchasing;  
82 [(C)] (3) the standardization and alignment of various regions of the  
83 state; or [(D)] (4) any other initiatives that may facilitate the delivery of  
84 services to the public in a more efficient, cost-effective, responsive or  
85 higher quality manner.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2025	4-66k

**PD**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	\$3.6 million	\$3.6 million

Note: GF=General Fund

### **Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill results in a cost of \$3.6 million to the Office of Policy and Management beginning in FY 26 to increase the regional service grant each Council of Government (COG) receives from the Regional Planning Incentive Account by \$400,000.<sup>1</sup>

### **The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

<sup>1</sup> There are nine regional councils of government in Connecticut.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 7144*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FROM THE REGIONAL PLANNING INCENTIVE ACCOUNT TO EACH REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR THE HIRING OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL.*****SUMMARY**

Beginning with the 2026 fiscal year, this bill increases by \$400,000 the regional services grant amount that each regional council of governments (COG) annually receives from the Regional Planning Incentive Account. Each COG must use this additional amount to fund three positions, including a regional building inspector to provide technical support for planning and developing housing. Under current law, the regional services grants to the nine COGs must total \$7 million each year, with each receiving a base amount and per-capita amount.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

**BACKGROUND*****Regional Planning Incentive Account***

The Regional Planning Incentive Account is a separate, nonlapsing General Fund account funded by 6.7% of the revenue generated by the room occupancy tax and 10.7% of the revenue generated by the rental car tax (CGS § 12-411(1)(J)).

***Related Bill***

SB 1186 (File 201), favorably reported by the Planning and Development Committee, primarily increases the per-capita portion of the regional services grant calculation if the consumer price index increases.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea     15     Nay   4     (03/21/2025)