

Joint Order Establishing the Joint Select Committee on Regionalization and Community Cooperation

WHEREAS, the property tax burden in the State continues to be an issue of widespread public concern; and

WHEREAS, federal mandates have placed increasing costs and demands on each unit of local government, regardless of size; and

WHEREAS, regional cooperative efforts may provide efficiencies in the delivery of public services; and

WHEREAS, many local governments and school districts are considering new regional initiatives and have requested information and assistance from State Government; and

WHEREAS, legislation relating to the regionalization of municipalities, counties and public schools has been or soon will be introduced; and

WHEREAS, such legislation raises issues that are normally placed before several different joint standing committees of the Legislature; now, therefore, be it

ORDERED, the House concurring, that pursuant to Joint Rule 351 the Joint Select Committee on Regionalization and Community Cooperation, referred to in this order as "the committee," is established. The committee consists of 4 members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate and 11 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House. The first-named Senate and House members shall serve as co-chairs of the committee. The committee shall identify barriers as well as incentives to regionalization and shall consider and dispose of any legislation referred to it by the bodies. The committee may submit legislation concerning regionalization to the Legislature.