



ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
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Local Government of the Future Subcommittee Meeting Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

Regular Telemeeting Agenda: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 – 10:30 A.M.

Meeting is only accessible online or by phone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81661316785>

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Meeting ID: 816 6131 6785

- 1) Call to order and overview of telemeeting procedures
- 2) Discussion of [3/2/2021 meeting notes](#), if necessary
- 3) Discussion of Local Government of the Future initiative
 - a) Legislative update
 - b) As described in Sec. 5 of the [ACIR's draft 5/7/2021 minutes](#), discuss the possible review of Home Rule and updating of the ACIR's [Home Rule in Connecticut: Its History, Status and Recommendations for Change](#) (1987) and the former UConn Institute for Public Services' [Home Rule in Connecticut](#) (1964).
 - c) Next steps
- 4) Adjourn

A focus of this meeting will be on solving a problem experienced by boards of education attempting to coordinate a service under a cooperative agreement in accordance with [CGS 10-158a](#).

ACIR member Lon Seidman, who originally highlighted the issue, is suggesting the following amendment to [CGS 10-240](#), with the proposed new language in highlighted italics

10-240 Control of Schools

Each town shall through its board of education maintain the control of all the public schools within its limits and for this purpose shall be a school district and shall have all the powers and duties of school districts, except so far as such powers and duties are inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter. *Two or more Boards of Education operating in a cooperative agreement under 10-158(a) may, following approval by the State Board of Education, have such cooperative agreement recognized as a single school district.*

The underlying problem and possible approaches have been discussed at previous meetings. Here's how the draft minutes of this month's meeting of the full ACIR describe the most recent discussion of the topic:

Commission member Sharkey referred to the [smaller of the two documents](#) forwarded yesterday and said it is the concept that Commission member Seidman previously brought to the ACIR to better enable boards of education to coordinate services. Commission member Seidman outlined the problem to be solved, using the school districts of his area as an example. Three towns each have a local school district for elementary education and formed a regional district for higher grades. For the local districts to share the cost of a service provided at lower grades, they are obligated by [CGS 10-158a](#) to have a fifth district. This results in significant duplication of effort.

Commission member Seidman said the solution to that problem would be to amend CGS 10-158a to enable cooperative agreements among schools and enable those to serve as a school district. He highlighted that such arrangements require much less commitment than forming a fully regionalized school district, which would encourage small town to consider partnerships with school of larger municipalities. He described some of the concerns that limit interest in full regionalization and said his suggested change would be a more palatable way to break down barriers between school districts.

Commission chair Sharkey said the problem is not new and said the current approach creates inequities. The state should provide more flexibility. Commission member Seidman said local districts should be able to ease into it and noted the difficulty of quantifying the added administrative time required by the current approach. Commission Sharkey provided acknowledged the lack of time for others to provide formal input and asked if the group is willing to approve this as a concept too.

Commission member Hart said the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) was able to review it since yesterday's subcommittee meeting and is cautiously supportive but noted the bargaining issues. He has not received a response from the CT Education Association (CEA) yet. He asked that language be included regarding labor's willingness to

negotiate. Commission alternate Grenier said the state Dept. of Education also agrees in concept and the proposal will be reviewed by the department's legal team.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the concept and to forward it to the PD Committee with the provisos regarding additional input. Commission member Valentine said the changes are long overdue and Commission member Brummett said she will run it by the [CT Assoc. of Public School Superintendents](#) (CAPSS), who she represents on the ACIR.