

CHAPTER 775

(House Bill 170)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 26A of Article 25 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1966 Replacement Volume), title "County Commissioners," subtitle "General Provisions," subheading "Regional Council of Governments," to amend the present law authorizing counties, cities and towns to establish and organize a council of governments to include authorization for participation in a council of governments which includes counties, cities and towns outside the State, TO PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL REPORTING, AND TO PROVIDE FOR FUNDING FOR THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 26A of Article 25 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1966 Replacement Volume), title "County Commissioners," subtitle "General Provisions," subheading "Regional Council of Governments," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:*

26A.

(a) The governing bodies of any county, city, town or any combination thereof by resolution may establish, [and] organize *and participate in* a council of governments, *which may include counties, cities, and towns outside the State of Maryland*, for the purpose of studying area governmental problems of mutual interest and concern, including such matters as facility studies on sewers and sewage disposal, water, storm drainage, roads, rubbish and garbage disposal, recreation, zoning, parks and ports, and to formulate recommendations for review and action thereon by the [member] *participating* governing bodies.

(b) Membership of the council shall consist of *at least one* representative from each participating county, city or town. The representative *or representatives* from each [member] *participating* county, city or town shall be the elected chief executive of [that particular] *a participating* government [or] *and/or* a member *or members* of its governing body chosen by such body to be its representatives. Any county, city or town which has become a member may withdraw upon 60 days notice subsequent to formal action by the governing body.

(c) The council shall have the power to (i) study such area governmental problems common to two or more members of the council as it deems appropriate, including but not limited to matters affecting health, *environment*, safety, welfare, education, economic conditions, and regional development; (ii) promote cooperative arrangements and coordinate action among its members; and (iii) make recommendations for review and action to the members and other public agencies that perform functions within the region.

(d) The council shall adopt bylaws designating the officers of the council and providing for the conduct of its business.