

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 445**

**Representatives Dovilla, Stewart**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Daniels, Demetriou, Fowler Arthur, Ray, Roemer,  
Thomas, D.**

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To amend sections 167.02 and 167.04 and to enact	1
sections 713.41, 713.42, and 713.43 of the	2
Revised Code regarding regional councils of	3
government and metropolitan planning	4
organizations.	5

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

<b>Section 1.</b> That sections 167.02 and 167.04 be amended and	6
sections 713.41, 713.42, and 713.43 of the Revised Code be	7
enacted to read as follows:	8

<b>Sec. 167.02.</b> (A) Membership in the regional council shall	9
be the counties, municipal corporations, townships, special	10
districts, school districts, and other political subdivisions	11
entering into the agreement establishing the council or admitted	12
to membership subsequently pursuant to the agreement	13
establishing the council or the bylaws of the council.	14
Representation on the council may be in the manner as provided	15
in the agreement establishing the council. <u>A regional council</u>	16
<u>that is a metropolitan planning organization shall not include a</u>	17
<u>majority of voting members from any one county.</u>	18

(B) If the agreement establishing the council does not set	19
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forth the manner for determining representation on the council 20  
such representation shall consist of one representative from 21  
each county, municipal corporation, township, special district, 22  
school district, or other political subdivision entering into 23  
the agreement, or subsequently admitted to membership in the 24  
council. The representative from each member county, municipal 25  
corporation, township, special district, school district, or 26  
other political subdivision shall be elected chief executive 27  
thereof, or, if such county, municipal corporation, township, 28  
special district, school district, or other political 29  
subdivision does not have an elected chief executive, a member 30  
of its governing body chosen by such body to be its 31  
representative. 32

(C) Records containing the names of the political 33  
subdivisions that are members of a regional council of 34  
governments or the names of the representatives from those 35  
political subdivisions who serve on the council are public 36  
records within the meaning of section 149.43 of the Revised 37  
Code, and those names are not considered to be trade secrets 38  
under section 1333.61 of the Revised Code. 39

(D) The director of development services shall assist the 40  
council in securing the cooperation of all appropriate agencies 41  
of the state or of the United States to aid in promoting the 42  
orderly growth and development of the area, solving the problems 43  
of local government, and discharging the responsibilities and 44  
duties of local government in the most efficient possible 45  
manner. 46

(E) Any county, municipal corporation, township, special 47  
district, school district, or other political subdivision which 48  
has become a member of the council may withdraw by formal action 49

of its governing board and upon sixty days notice to council 50  
after such action, or in the manner provided in the agreement 51  
establishing the council, provided no such procedure relative to 52  
withdrawals in the agreement establishing the council shall 53  
require the political subdivision desiring to withdraw to retain 54  
its membership in the council for a period in excess of two 55  
years. 56

**Sec. 167.04.** (A) The regional council of governments shall 57  
adopt by-laws, by a majority vote of its members, designating 58  
the officers of the council and the method of their selection, 59  
creating a governing board that may act for the council as 60  
provided in the by-laws, and providing for the conduct of its 61  
business. The individual who serves as the chief executive 62  
officer of a regional council of governments that is a 63  
metropolitan planning organization shall not hold employment 64  
outside of this state. 65

(B) The by-laws of the regional council of governments 66  
shall provide for the appointment of a fiscal officer, who may 67  
hold any other office or employment with the council, and who 68  
shall receive, deposit, invest, and disburse the funds of the 69  
council in the manner authorized by the by-laws or action by the 70  
council. 71

(C) The by-laws of a regional council of governments the 72  
members of which include, under sections 167.01 and 167.02 of 73  
the Revised Code, at least eight counties may include a 74  
provision authorizing member attendance and voting at council 75  
meetings either in person or by proxy. 76

(D) The officers of the council shall notify the auditor 77  
of state of the regional council's formation, provide a copy of 78  
the council's by-laws, and provide on a form prescribed by the 79

auditor of state any other information regarding the regional 80  
council that the auditor of state considers necessary. 81

The council shall take no official action, other than 82  
formation, before notifying the auditor of state of its 83  
formation in accordance with this section. Any official action 84  
the council takes before making that notification, including 85  
entering into any contract, is void. 86

Sec. 713.41. (A) As used in this section: 87

(1) "Metropolitan planning organization" has the same 88  
meaning as in section 5552.01 of the Revised Code. 89

(2) "Commuter statistics" means the population of 90  
individuals who work at locations that are different from where 91  
those individuals live, as determined by the five-year commuting 92  
flow estimates published in the American community survey by the 93  
United States census bureau and that are based on the most 94  
recent federal decennial census data. 95

(3) "Eligible county" means a county that is part of a 96  
metropolitan planning organization and in which twenty-five per 97  
cent of the workforce population of that county commutes to an 98  
adjoining county that is partially or wholly located in a 99  
different metropolitan planning organization, according to the 100  
most recent commuter statistics and excluding any percentage of 101  
the workforce that commutes to a different state. 102

(B) (1) The board of county commissioners of an eligible 103  
county may adopt a resolution requesting that the governor 104  
redesignate that eligible county into a different, adjoining 105  
metropolitan planning organization. 106

(2) A board that adopts a resolution in accordance with 107  
division (B) (1) of this section shall send a copy of that 108

resolution to the governor. 109

(C) (1) Not later than sixty days after receipt of the copy 110  
of the resolution in accordance with division (B) of this 111  
section, the governor shall determine whether to redesignate the 112  
eligible county. 113

(2) If the governor determines that the eligible county 114  
should be redesignated, the governor shall take the necessary 115  
steps to redesignate that county into the adjoining metropolitan 116  
planning organization. 117

**Sec. 713.42.** (A) As used in this section, "metropolitan 118  
planning organization" has the same meaning as in section 119  
5552.01 of the Revised Code. 120

(B) A metropolitan planning organization shall not adopt 121  
policies, regulations, or standards that are more stringent than 122  
any corresponding state and federal policies, regulations, or 123  
standards. 124

**Sec. 713.43.** (A) As used in this section, "metropolitan 125  
planning organization" has the same meaning as in section 126  
5552.01 of the Revised Code. 127

(B) The governing body of a metropolitan planning 128  
organization shall not include a majority of voting members from 129  
one county. 130

**Section 2.** That existing sections 167.02 and 167.04 of the 131  
Revised Code are hereby repealed. 132