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**Senate Local Government and Elections Committee**

House Bill 531 – Proponent Testimony

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Chair Gavarone, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Maharath, and members of the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 531.

House Bill 531 would allow regional councils of governments (COGs), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) to contract with county prosecutors to provide legal services. If a COG, MPO, or RTPO would like to pursue a contract with a county prosecutor, the board of commissioners in the county of the prosecutor chosen for the contract must approve the use. The authority in the bill is permissive.

These provisions provide additional options to regional organizations that already exist for others, including regional planning commissions and regional airport authorities.

CCAO supports this legislation and permissive authority to allow a county prosecutor to provide legal services to COGs, MPOs, and RTPOs. CCAO thanks Representative Ghanbari for introducing this legislation and respectfully asks the committee to favorably report House Bill 531.

