

Commission on Local Government
August 26, 2024
10:00 am
All-Virtual Special Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Members Present (virtually)

Edwin Rosado (chair)
Robert Lauterberg (vice chair)
Diane Linderman
Terry Payne

Members Absent

Ceasor Johnson

DHCD staff present for all or part of the meeting:

LeGrand Northcutt, Senior Policy Analyst
Chase Sawyer, Policy Manager
Trisha Lindsey, Policy and Legislative Director

Call to Order	Mr. Edwin Rosado, Chairman of the Commission on Local Government, called the special meeting to order at 10:05 am.
Roll Call	The roll was called by Mr. Legrand Northcutt, Senior Policy Analyst, DHCD. Mr. Northcutt reported that a quorum of Commissioners Rosado, Linderman, Lauterberg, and Payne was present.
Approval of Agenda	A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Lauterberg to approve the draft agenda. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.
Public Comment	Mr. Rosado opened the floor for public comment. After seeing no speakers, Mr. Rosado closed public comment.
Presentation of Draft Regulations Implementing SB645	Mr. Rosado recognized Mr. Northcutt, who recognized Bryan Horn, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development. Mr. Horn spoke about the background work that went into developing the regulations and thanked staff and the Commission for their work on developing the regulations. Mr. Northcutt presented the content of the draft regulations implementing SB645 and answered substantive and clarifying questions from the Commissioners. The regulations will be voted on at the next regular meeting of the Commission on September 17 th after incorporating any feedback from the Commissioners and other stakeholders.

The Commissioners had the following substantive suggestions and questions for Mr. Northcutt:

Mr. Rosado asked whether a map of planning district 19 could be included in the regulations. Mr. Northcutt responded that he would look into incorporating a map by reference.

Ms. Linderman asked about capitalization rules and whether the point of contact for a locality should be referred to as the chief executive or administrative officer. Mr. Northcutt responded that he would double check these items for consistency.

Mr. Lauterberg suggested that the regulations further specify who would preside over a proceeding in the absence of the chair and vice chair. Mr. Northcutt responded that he would look into whether this needs to be addressed through regulation or whether further commission policy will be needed.

Mr. Lauterberg and Ms. Linderman expressed concern that meetings in executive session and the documents presented in those meetings might not be kept confidential. Mr. Northcutt will confirm the sufficiency of the sections in question with the Commission's attorney.

Mr. Lauterberg asked whether there needed to be further delineation between the duties of the state intervention staff and the emergency fiscal manager. Mr. Northcutt responded that this delineation would be up to the discretion of the commission based on who it hires for the role of emergency fiscal manager.

Mr. Rosado asked for further clarification about what would happen if a locality not in planning district 19 was found to be in fiscal distress.

The Commissioners had further discussion about the procurement process, and asked about and discussed the potential immediate consequences of the regulations on the City of Hopewell. Mr. Northcutt responded that a notification from the auditor that a locality is in fiscal distress is needed to initiate the Commission's involvement and oversight authority under the draft regulations as written.

Mr. Rosado discussed the importance of making sure that he Commission's Fiscal Stress Report aligns with the Auditor's process and is used effectively.

Other business

Mr. Northcutt presented the Commission's calendar for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Rosado gave concluding remarks

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Lauterberg to adjourn the special meeting of the Commission; The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.