

SENATE NO. 1191

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CREATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTERS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,
And by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 40B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is
2 hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following section:—
3 Section 30. There shall be established within each regional planning district created under this
4 chapter or by special act a technical assistance center for the delivery of coordinated,
5 comprehensive, and continuing technical services to and among local governments. Technical
6 assistance services may be provided in any subject area within the capability of each technical
7 assistance center that improves local government capacity, efficiency, knowledge and ability to
8 respond to issues, opportunities, laws and requirements including but not limited to:
9 development of smart growth or sustainable development standards and ordinances; required
10 municipal asset inventory and management; communication systems including broadband,
11 wireless and related facilities; emergency and incident response systems; electronic government
12 opportunities; remote image and data collection; digital data management and archiving;

13 geographic information systems; geo-location of infrastructure; internet and internet-related
14 technologies; data sharing and regional backup; computer system evaluation and networking;
15 intelligent transportation systems; statistical trends and modeling; digital recordation of
16 accidents, fires and crime; technical specifications relating to management of the sanitary code,
17 water supplies, air quality, storm water and natural resource area.

18 Said regional planning districts shall annually consult with each member city and town to
19 ensure locally needed technical assistance services that (i) aid communities in evaluating new
20 technologies, equipment and systems; (ii) aid communities in improving the efficiency of local
21 government; (iii) reduce costs incurred by local governments for performing duties required
22 thereof; (iv) build capacity and provide needed skills; (v) aid communities in meeting new state
23 or federal regulations or requirements; (vi) provide specific services or initiate demonstration
24 projects; (vii) facilitate sharing of information or best practices among and between
25 communities; (viii) facilitate inter-municipal cooperation and/or cost sharing; (ix) provide
26 training and skill development of community employees; (x) aid in improvement of local
27 standards, procedures and regulations, and (xi) promote smart growth zoning, regulations, or
28 standards. Said regional planning districts shall coordinate and focus their programs to augment
29 the services of the local technical assistance centers. A core program of with individual
30 communities technical services shall be maintained in the fields of management and data,
31 environment, transportation and community development. Other fields may be covered as
32 appropriate and resources allow. Agencies of the commonwealth initiating or following through
33 on programs or regulations requiring outreach and/or technical assistance shall first consider
34 utilizing the local technical assistance centers while seeking the services previously enumerated
35 and may enter directly into contracts with the regional planning agencies or their technical

36 assistance centers as they would with any city or town. This provision shall not limit the ability
37 of state agencies to work directly with municipalities.