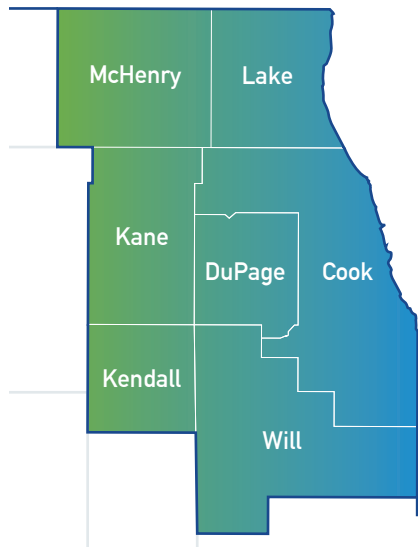


Modernizing the Regional Planning Act

103rd General Assembly Spring Session

SB3389, sponsored by Senator Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago) and Senator Don DeWitte (R-St. Charles) and **HB5078**, sponsored by Representative Eva-Dina Delgado (D-Chicago) and Representative Dan Ugaste (R-Geneva) would make changes to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) enabling statute to support timely decision making by the CMAP Board while maintaining regional consensus for key agency activities. These changes will enhance CMAP's operations and ability to effectively serve northeastern Illinois. These bills also make other clarifying revisions and updates to the Regional Planning Act.



SB3389/HB5078 Overview

Permits the CMAP Board to take action on contracts (except contracts pertaining to the employment of the executive director), grants, purchase agreements, and meeting minutes with a simple majority of Board members in office. All other actions would continue to require concurrence of 4/5 of Board members in office.

CMAP's enabling statute, the Regional Planning Act (70 ILCS 1707), specifies "four-fifths of the Board members in office...for the Board to take any action." In practice, this means 12 of the 15 voting CMAP Board members must be physically present for the Board to take action. The 4/5 decision-making requirement is important for a Board that represents a large and diverse region.

The CMAP Board also plays a critical role ensuring that the day-to-day operations of the agency can progress in a timely manner. This includes approving grants and contracts that support agency programs, projects, and operations. If the CMAP Board cannot meet and take action because there are fewer than 12 members in attendance, that delays the ability to execute on those agreements and get project work underway.

Executing on funding agreements is important for meeting funders' goals, too. If the Board is unable to meet to act on agreements, it compresses the amount of time in which CMAP can expend secured funding. Ultimately, this runs the risk of northeastern Illinois losing out on much needed resources.

By allowing for the CMAP Board to advance a select number of operational items with a simple majority, the Board will help ensure resources move through the agency in a timely fashion while maintaining regional support for major agency actions.





Clarifies the CMAP Board will continue to involve local elected officials in federal program allocation decisions for any federally suballocated funding as required by law

With the passage of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, CMAP — as the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for northeastern Illinois — now suballocates Carbon Reduction Program funding in addition to Surface Transportation, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, and Transportation Alternatives Program funds. This change will clarify that any dollars CMAP is newly responsible for suballocating per future federal actions will continue to follow the process prescribed in the Regional Planning Act.



Removes the CMAP Wastewater Committee from the Regional Planning Act

The Regional Planning Act directs CMAP to establish a Wastewater Committee that is tasked with making recommendations regarding proposals and permits for wastewater infrastructure, wastewater facility planning areas, and wastewater discharge permits. CMAP is able to make these recommendations as the state-designated areawide water quality management planning agency. In this capacity, CMAP is responsible for assisting the region in implementing and ensuring consistency with the Illinois Water Quality Management Plan. As such, the committee has not convened for nearly ten years.



Modernizes language to reflect current practices around the region by changing “chairman” to “chair”

More local governments around the region have shifted from “chairman” to “chair.” This change reflects this ongoing trend in northeastern Illinois.

Questions?

John Carpenter, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
jcarpenter@cmap.illinois.gov

Visit cmap.illinois.gov for more information



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning