



## County-wide Shared Services Initiative

### PART EE

23 Section 1. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new arti-  
24 cle 12-I to read as follows:

25 ARTICLE 12-I

26 COUNTY-WIDE SHARED SERVICES PANELS

27 Section 239-bb. County-wide shared services panels.

28 § 239-bb. County-wide shared services panels. 1. Definitions. The  
29 following terms shall have the following meanings for the purposes of  
30 this article:

31 a. "County" shall mean any county not wholly contained within a city.

32 b. "County CEO" shall mean the county executive, county manager or  
33 other chief executive of the county, or, where none, the chair of the  
34 county legislative body.

35 c. "Panel" shall mean a county-wide shared services panel established  
36 pursuant to subdivision two of this section.

37 d. "Plan" shall mean a county-wide shared services property tax  
38 savings plan.

39 2. County-wide shared services panels. a. There shall be a county-wide  
40 shared services panel in each county consisting of the county CEO, and

41 one representative from each city, town and village in the county. The  
42 chief executive officer of each town, city and village shall be the  
43 representative to a panel and shall be the mayor, if a city or a  
44 village, or shall be the supervisor, if a town. The county CEO shall  
45 serve as chair. All panels established in each county pursuant to part  
46 BBB of chapter fifty-nine of the laws of two thousand seventeen, and  
47 prior to the enactment of this article, shall continue in satisfaction  
48 of this section in such form as they were established, provided that the  
49 county CEO may alter the membership of the panel consistent with para-  
50 graph b of this subdivision.

51 b. The county CEO may invite any school district, board of cooperative  
52 educational services, fire district, fire protection district, or  
53 special improvement district in the county to join a panel. Upon such  
54 invitation, the governing body of such school district, board of cooper-

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1 ative educational services, fire district, fire protection district, or  
2 other special district may accept such invitation by selecting a repre-  
3 sentative of such governing body, by majority vote, to serve as a member  
4 of the panel. Such school district, board of cooperative educational  
5 services, fire district, fire protection district or other special  
6 district shall maintain such representation until the panel either  
7 approves a plan or transmits a statement to the secretary of state on  
8 the reason the panel did not approve a plan, pursuant to paragraph d of  
9 subdivision seven of this section. Upon approval of a plan or a trans-  
10 mission of a statement to the secretary of state that a panel did not  
11 approve a plan in any calendar year, the county CEO may, but need not,  
12 invite any school district, board of cooperative educational services,  
13 fire district, fire protection district or special improvement district  
14 in the county to join a panel thereafter convened.

15 3. a. Each county CEO shall, after satisfying the requirements of part  
16 BBB of chapter fifty-nine of the laws of two thousand seventeen, annual-  
17 ly convene the panel and shall undertake to revise and update a previ-  
18 ously approved plan or alternatively develop a new plan through December  
19 thirty-first, two thousand twenty-one. Such plans shall contain new,  
20 recurring property tax savings resulting from actions such as, but not  
21 limited to, the elimination of duplicative services; shared services  
22 arrangements including, joint purchasing, shared highway equipment,  
23 shared storage facilities, shared plowing services and energy and insur-  
24 ance purchasing cooperatives; reducing back office and administrative  
25 overhead; and better coordinating services. The secretary of state may  
26 provide advice and/or recommendations on the form and structure of such  
27 plans.

28 b. After having convened at least two meetings in a calendar year, a  
29 panel may, by majority vote, determine that it is not in the best inter-  
30 est of the taxpayers to revise and update a previously approved plan or  
31 to develop a new plan in such year. The county CEO of such panel shall  
32 then comply with the provisions of paragraph (d) of subdivision seven of  
33 this section.

34 4. While revising or updating a previously approved plan, or while  
35 developing a new plan, the county CEO shall regularly consult with, and  
36 take recommendations from, the representatives: on the panel; of each  
37 collective bargaining unit of the county and the cities, towns, and  
38 villages; and of each collective bargaining unit of any participating  
39 school district, board of cooperative educational services, fire  
40 district, fire protection district, or special improvement district.

41 5. The county CEO, the county legislative body and a panel shall  
42 accept input from the public, civic, business, labor and community lead-  
43 ers on any proposed plan. The county CEO shall cause to be conducted a  
44 minimum of three public hearings prior to submission of a plan to a vote

45 of a panel. All such public hearings shall be conducted within the coun-  
46 ty, and public notice of all such hearings shall be provided at least  
47 one week prior in the manner prescribed in subdivision one of section  
48 one hundred four of the public officers law. Civic, business, labor,  
49 and community leaders, as well as members of the public, shall be  
50 permitted to provide public testimony at any such hearings.

51 6. a. The county CEO shall submit each plan, accompanied by a certifi-  
52 cation as to the accuracy of the savings contained therein, to the  
53 county legislative body at least forty-five days prior to a vote by the  
54 panel.

55 b. The county legislative body shall review and consider each plan  
56 submitted in accordance with paragraph a of this subdivision. A majority

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1 of the members of such body may issue an advisory report on each plan,  
2 making recommendations as deemed necessary. The county CEO may modify a  
3 plan based on such recommendations, which shall include an updated  
4 certification as to the accuracy of the savings contained therein.

5 7. a. A panel shall duly consider any plan properly submitted to the  
6 panel by the county CEO and may approve such plan by a majority vote of  
7 the panel. Each member of a panel may, prior to the panel-wide vote,  
8 cause to be removed from a plan any proposed action affecting the unit  
9 of government represented by the respective member. Written notice of  
10 such removal shall be provided to the county CEO prior to a panel-wide  
11 vote on a plan.

12 b. Plans approved by a panel shall be transmitted to the secretary of  
13 state no later than thirty days from the date of approval by a panel  
14 accompanied by a certification as to the accuracy of the savings accom-  
15 panied therein, and shall be publicly disseminated to residents of the  
16 county in a concise, clear, and coherent manner using words with common

17 and everyday meaning.

18 c. The county CEO shall conduct a public presentation of any approved  
19 plan no later than thirty days from the date of approval by a panel.  
20 Public notice of such presentation shall be provided at least one week  
21 prior in the manner prescribed in subdivision one of section one hundred  
22 four of the public officers law.

23 d. Beginning in two thousand twenty, by January fifteenth following  
24 any calendar year during which a panel did not approve a plan and trans-  
25 mit such plan to the secretary of state pursuant to paragraph b of this  
26 subdivision, the county CEO of such panel shall release to the public  
27 and transmit to the secretary of state a statement explaining why the  
28 panel did not approve a plan that year, including, for each vote on a  
29 plan, the vote taken by each panel member and an explanation by each  
30 panel member of their vote.

31 8. For each county, new shared services actions not included in a  
32 previously approved and submitted plan pursuant to this section or part  
33 BBB of chapter fifty-nine of the laws of two thousand seventeen, may be  
34 eligible for funding to match savings from such action, subject to  
35 available appropriation. Savings that are actually and demonstrably  
36 realized by the participating local governments are eligible for match-  
37 ing funding. For actions that are part of an approved plan transmitted  
38 to the secretary of state in accordance with paragraph b of subdivision  
39 seven of this section, savings achieved from January first through  
40 December thirty-first from new actions implemented on or after January  
41 first through December thirty-first of the year immediately following an  
42 approved and transmitted plan may be eligible for matching funding. Only  
43 net savings between local governments for each action would be eligible  
44 for matching funding. Savings from internal efficiencies or any other  
45 action taken by a local government without the participation of another  
46 local government are not eligible for matching funding. Each county and

47 all of the local governments within the county that are part of any  
48 action to be implemented as part of an approved plan must collectively  
49 apply for the matching funding and agree on the distribution and use of  
50 any matching funding in order to qualify for matching funding.

51 9. The department of state shall prepare a report to the governor, the  
52 temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly on the  
53 county-wide shared services plans approved by the county-wide shared  
54 services panels created pursuant to part BBB of chapter fifty-nine of  
55 the laws of two thousand seventeen and this article and shall post the  
56 report on the department's website. Such report shall be provided on or

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1 before June thirtieth, two thousand twenty-two and shall include, but  
2 not be limited to, the following:

3 a. a detailed summary of projects included in county-wide shared  
4 services plans by category, such as:

5 (1) public health and insurance;

6 (2) emergency services;

7 (3) sewer, water, and waste management systems;

8 (4) energy procurement and efficiency;

9 (5) parks and recreation;

10 (6) education and workforce training;

11 (7) law and courts;

12 (8) shared equipment, personnel, and services;

13 (9) joint purchasing;

14 (10) governmental reorganization;

15 (11) transportation and highway departments; and

16 (12) records management and administrative functions.

17 b. for each of the counties the following information:

18 (1) a detailed summary of each of the savings plans, including

19 revisions and updates submitted each year or the statement explaining  
20 why the county did not approve a plan in any year;

21 (2) the anticipated savings for each plan;

22 (3) the number of cities, towns and villages in the county;

23 (4) the number of cities, towns and villages that participated in a  
24 panel, as reported in a plan;

25 (5) the number of school districts, boards of cooperative educational  
26 services, fire districts, fire protection districts, or other special  
27 districts in the county; and

28 (6) the number of school districts, boards of cooperative educational  
29 services, fire districts, fire protection districts, or other special  
30 districts that participated in a panel, as reported in a plan.

31 10. The secretary of state may solicit, and the panels may provide at  
32 her or his request, advice and recommendations concerning matters  
33 related to the operations of local governments and shared services  
34 initiatives, including, but not limited to, making recommendations  
35 regarding grant proposals incorporating elements of shared services,  
36 government dissolutions, government and service consolidations, or prop-  
37 erty taxes and such other grants where the secretary deems the input of  
38 the panels to be in the best interest of the public. The panel shall  
39 advance such advice or recommendations by a vote of the majority of the  
40 members present at such meeting.

41 11. The authority granted by this article to a county CEO to convene a  
42 panel for the purpose of revising or updating a previously approved  
43 plan, or developing a new plan, or to provide the secretary of state  
44 information pursuant to subdivision ten of this section, shall cease on  
45 December thirty-first, two thousand twenty-one.

46 § 2. Section 119-o of the general municipal law is amended by adding  
47 a new subdivision 4 to read as follows:

48 4. Any school district or board of cooperative educational services

49 may join a panel established pursuant to article twelve-I of this chap-  
50 ter, and may further participate in any of the activities of such panel,  
51 with any participating county, town, city, village, fire district, fire  
52 protection district, or special improvement district participating in  
53 such panels. For cooperative agreements which involve functions,  
54 services, or provisions permitted by this section, school districts and  
55 boards of cooperative educational services shall be permitted to create

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1 and execute such agreements, when a part of the activity of such panel,  
2 without opinion or approval of the state education department.

3 § 3. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part  
4 of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to  
5 be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the  
6 remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause,  
7 sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part thereof directly  
8 involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been  
9 rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the legislature that  
10 this act would have been enacted even if such invalid provisions had not  
11 been included herein.

12 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.