

Public Works - Regional Water & Sewer Commissions

Statutory Reference: [M.G.L. c.40N, s.25](#)

Summary: Provides means to form a regional water and sewer commission and district.

Creation - The establishment of a regional water and sewer district commission begins with the formation of a regional planning committee. Its members are the three members of each local district planning committee, which is formed in a town by vote of town meeting, in Plan D and E cities by vote of the city council with approval of the city manager, and in other cities by vote of the city council and approval of the mayor. The role of the regional planning committee is to study the advisability of establishing a regional water and sewer district commission.

The regional planning committee would submit a proposed agreement to prospective cities and towns. In towns the agreement must be accepted by town meeting. In Plan D and E cities a vote by the city council with approval of the city manager, and in other cities a vote by the city council and approval of the mayor are necessary.

Governance - The number, composition, method of selection, and terms of office of the members of the regional district commission are determined by the regional planning committee and presented for local approval as part of the proposed district agreement.

Finances - The method of apportioning the expenses, including debt service related to construction or other obligations, and the time and manner of payment of allocated costs by member communities, and the procedure for the preparation and adoption of an annual budget are determined by the regional planning committee and presented for approval in the proposed district agreement.

Employee Rights - None specified.

Other - The planning committee studies the advisability of forming a regional water and sewer district commission, its organization, operation and control and of constructing, maintaining and operating water and sewer facilities; to estimate the construction and operating costs; to investigate the methods of financing such facilities, and any other matters pertaining to the organization and operation of a regional water and sewer district commission; and to submit a report of its findings for local approval.