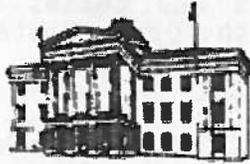


State of North Carolina



JAMES G. MARTIN
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 25

REGIONAL POLICY FOR NORTH CAROLINA

In 1970, this State delineated boundaries for multi-county planning and development regions and in 1971 a Lead Regional Organization was designated for each region to establish goals and objectives, and serve as the regional agent in dealing with state and federal agencies. Thereafter, state agencies were instructed to utilize the Lead Regional Organization for planning, implementing, and coordinating programs which impact local governments. The concepts of multi-county planning regions and the Lead Regional Organization policy have been very effective in fostering intergovernmental coordination and cooperation and this Administration is committed to close cooperation with local governments and their agencies. Therefore, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of North Carolina, it is ORDERED:

Section 1. ORGANIZATION

- (a) A single Lead Regional Organization shall continue to exist in each of the eighteen multi-county planning development regions or such larger or smaller number of regions as may be hereinafter delineated by the Department of Administration.
- (b) The governing board of each Lead Regional Organization shall determine the organization's membership composition, but such Lead Regional Organizations are urged to limit policy board representation to elected officials of the member local governments.

Section 2. FUNCTIONS

- (a) Lead Regional Organizations, whether Councils of Governments or Economic Development Districts shall have

the same powers and duties specified for Councils of Governments in the General Statutes of North Carolina.

Section 3. ADMINISTRATION

- (a) In dividing the State for administrative and/or service delivery purposes, State agencies shall make subdivisions coterminous with the Lead Regional Organization boundary lines, or with combinations of such, unless it can be demonstrated that strict conformance would result in inefficiencies, or that the proposed subdivision bears no relationship to regional plans or activities.
- (b) State agencies desiring to eliminate, re-direct, or begin programs which impact local governments through Lead Regional Organizations are hereby directed to submit any proposed change or modification to the Local Government Advocacy Council for an advisory opinion prior to taking action. New programs involving service delivery through the Lead Regional Organizations must have the approval of local governments affected .
- (c) State financial support to Lead Regional Organizations should be limited to grants to carry out specific tasks which are imposed by State government, or tasks which involve a coordinated state-wide activity which will be beneficial to both State and local governments. State funds, if provided, shall not be utilized for general administrative support, nor shall they be utilized to supplant local funds.
- (d) The determination of personnel procedures for Lead Regional Organizations shall be left to the discretion of local governments, and no State agency shall impose its personnel procedures on the Lead Regional Organizations. Nothing in this section shall preclude the establishment of reasonable minimum education and experience standards for positions funded by a State agency, provided that such standards shall be no more stringent than those in use by State or Federal agencies for comparable positions. The Lead Regional Organizations shall have complete autonomy in filling such positions from among applicants meeting those reasonable minimum standards.

Section 4. MODIFICATION OF REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

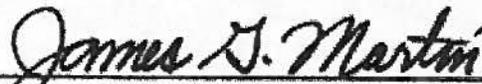
- (a) The Secretary of the Department of Administration is hereby charged with revising and implementing, if necessary, the existing guidelines dealing with the changing of regional boundary lines, in accordance with the following:

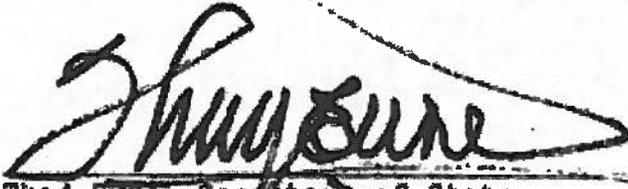
- (b) Boundary changes shall not be considered unless a petition for change is received from one or more county boards of commissioners or from the governing bodies of one or more municipalities whose combined populations represent at least 50% of the county population. No boundary change shall be made until after notice of such proposed change is given, and sufficient opportunity for public comment is provided.
- (c) Any request for boundary change shall be acted upon within ninety (90) days of the receipt of a valid petition.
- (d) Approved boundary changes shall be effective on July 1st of the following year, and must be announced at least ninety days prior thereto.
- (e) A request for change which is not approved by the State shall not be reconsidered for a minimum period of three years from the date of disapproval.

Section 5. PRIOR ORDERS

All prior executive orders or portions of prior executive orders inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

This order is effective this the 21st day of February, 1986.


James G. Martin
Governor


Thad Eure, Secretary of State
State of North Carolina



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