

HB 4015

Relating to state agency alignment with regional community and economic development priorities

House Bill 4015 establishes the Regional Solutions Program in statute; and requires certain state agencies that operate grant and loan programs to consider regional priorities, as designated by Regional Solutions advisory committees, in the consideration of their project-funding decisions.

The Regional Solutions Program was established in 2011 by Governor's Executive Order. HB 4015 provides a statutory framework for the program to operate under its existing structure, as outlined in that executive order. The bill establishes regional solutions teams, regional solutions advisory committees, and regional solutions coordinators. Five state agencies are designated to consider regional priorities in their funding decisions: the Departments of Environment Quality, Land Conservation and Development, Transportation, Housing and Community Services, and Business Development. The bill further requires an additional seven natural resource agencies to develop a plan for participating in Regional Solutions.

In Subcommittee discussion, it was noted that additional legislation is needed in the 2015 session, to specify the fiscal operations of the Regional Solutions Program, and the process for identifying and developing program funding requests.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends that House Bill 4015 be amended and be reported out do pass, as amended.