



SHARED SERVICES–WORKING TOGETHER

**Uniform Shared Services & Consolidation Act
N.J.S.A 40A:65 et seq.**

**Personnel Guidelines for Shared Services, Joint
Meetings, & Municipal Consolidation**

Commonly Shared Municipal Services

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UNIFORM SHARED SERVICES AND CONSOLIDATION ACT
c. 63, P.L. 2007 (As amended by c. 55, P.L. 2011)

AN ACT to encourage the financial accountability of local units of government through empowering citizens, reducing waste and duplicative services, clearing legal hurdles to shared services and consolidation, and supplementing, amending, and repealing sections of statutory law.

WHEREAS, The problem of high property taxes paid by New Jersey’s residents is not easily solved, but can be ameliorated through changes to the laws designed to encourage government efficiency through shared services, regionalization, and consolidation; and

WHEREAS, The problem of political resistance remains a potent barrier to consolidation, especially since initial additional short-term costs may mask the long-term benefits of consolidation; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature should attempt to facilitate, by an improved and streamlined process that is tailored to local needs, that avoids the current thicket of overlapping and antiquated laws inhibiting interlocal cooperation, and that deals with Civil Service issues rationally; and

WHEREAS, The State largely has employed a “carrot” approach to incentivizing consolidation and service sharing for over 30 years, and for real progress to occur in reducing the rate of property tax increase, the “stick” approach is appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Providing citizens with the tools to gauge the efficiency of their local governments will help promote accountability and cost savings; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

ARTICLE 1. SHARED SERVICES AND CONSOLIDATION

SUBARTICLE A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

40A:65-1 Short title.

Sections 1 through 35 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 through C.40A:65-35) shall be known and may be referred to as the “Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act.”

40A:65-2 Findings, declarations relative to shared services and consolidation.

2. The Legislature finds and declares:

a. Historically, many specialized statutes have been enacted to permit shared services between local units for particular purposes.

b. Other laws, permitting a variety of shared services, including interlocal services agreements, joint meetings, and consolidated and regional services, exist but have not been very effective in promoting the broad use of shared services as a technique to reduce local

expenses funded by property taxpayers.

c. It is appropriate for the Legislature to enact a new shared services statute that can be used to effectuate agreements between local units for any service or circumstance intended to reduce property taxes through the reduction of local expenses.

d. It is contrary to public policy that the tenure rights of certain local personnel should effectively prohibit shared services agreements for the services provided by those local personnel, thereby depriving property taxpayers of property tax relief.

e. In order to evaluate the efficiencies related to the sharing of services of certain local personnel having tenure rights in office, it is appropriate to create a pilot program in seven counties of the State which embody urban, suburban, and rural characteristics to study the sharing of the services of these personnel between municipalities by allowing for the dismissal of such a tenured local official, as necessary, in order to promote and effectuate the sharing of a service.

L.2007, c.63, s.2; amended 2013, c.166, s.2; 2018, c.140, s.2.

40A:65-3 Definitions relative to shared services and consolidation.

As used in sections 1 through 35 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 through C.40A:65-35):

“Board” means the Local Finance Board in the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs.

“Construct” and “construction” connote and include acts of construction, reconstruction, replacement, extension, improvement and betterment of lands, public improvements, works, facilities, services or undertakings.

“Contracting local units” means local units participating in a joint meeting.

“Director” means the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs.

“Division” means the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs.

“Governing body” means the board, commission, council, or other body having the control of the finances of a local unit; and in those local units in which an executive officer is authorized by law to participate in such control through powers of recommendation, approval, or veto, the term includes that executive officer, to the extent of the officer’s statutory participation.

“Joint contract” means an agreement between two or more local units to form a joint meeting.

“Joint meeting” means the joint operation of any public services, public improvements, works, facilities, or other undertaking by contracting local units pursuant to a joint contract under section 14 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-14).

“Local unit” means a “contracting unit” pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-2), a “district” pursuant to N.J.S.18A:18A-2, a “county college” pursuant to N.J.S.18A:64A-1, a joint meeting, or any authority or special district that is subject to the “Local Authorities Fiscal Control Law,” P.L.1983, c.313 (C.40A:5A-1 et seq.).

“Operate” and “operation” mean and include acquisition, construction, maintenance, management, and administration of any lands, public improvements, works, facilities, services, or undertakings.

“Person” means any person, association, corporation, nation, State, or any agency or

subdivision thereof, or a county or municipality of the State.

“Service” means any of the powers, duties and functions exercised or performed by a local unit by or pursuant to law.

“Shared service” or “shared” means any service provided on a regional, joint, interlocal, shared, or similar basis between local units, the provisions of which are memorialized by agreement between the participating local units, but, for the purposes of this act, does not include any specific service or activity regulated by some other law, rule or regulation.

“Shared service agreement” or “agreement” means a contract authorized under section 4 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-4).

“Terminal leave benefit” means a single, lump sum payment, paid at termination, calculated using the regular base salary at the time of termination.

SUBARTICLE B. SHARED SERVICES

40A:65-4 Agreements for shared services.

4. a. (1) Any local unit may enter into an agreement with any other local unit or units to provide or receive any service that each local unit participating in the agreement is empowered to provide or receive within its own jurisdiction, including services incidental to the primary purposes of any of the participating local units including services from licensed or certified professionals required by statute to be appointed.

In the case of pilot municipalities, tenure rights shall not prohibit the sharing of services for a municipal clerk, a chief financial officer, an assessor, a tax collector, a municipal treasurer, or a municipal superintendent of public works. The statutory requirements that each municipality must appoint a municipal clerk, a chief financial officer, an assessor, a tax collector, a municipal treasurer, a municipal engineer, and a principal public works manager shall, for those pilot municipalities, permit and include the provision of the services of any of those municipal employees through a shared service agreement pursuant to the provisions of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et seq.). The shared service agreement shall be subject to the provisions of subsection d. of this section and of section 3 of P.L.2013, c.166 (C.40A:65-4.2).

In a shared service agreement between pilot municipalities for the services of a municipal clerk, a chief financial officer, an assessor, a tax collector, a municipal treasurer, or a municipal superintendent of public works, the agent-party, as that term is used in subsection d. of section 7 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-7), shall select for employment under the agreement one of the employees of the pilot municipalities that are party to the agreement who was employed in that same capacity prior to the approval of the agreement.

(2) Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, any agreement between local units for the provision of shared services shall be entered into pursuant to sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.); provided, however, that agreements regarding shared services that are otherwise regulated by statute, rule, or regulation are specifically excluded from sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.).

(3) The board is authorized to render a decision in the determination of the statutory basis under which a specific shared service is governed.

b. Any agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall be filed, for informational purposes, with the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community

Affairs, together with an estimate of the cost savings anticipated to be achieved by the local units that are the parties to the agreement in the case of an agreement between pilot municipalities, pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the director.

c. In the case of a pilot municipality, a tenured municipal clerk, chief financial officer, assessor, tax collector, municipal superintendent of public works, or municipal treasurer may be dismissed to effectuate the sharing of a service entered into pursuant to the provisions of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et seq.) and such dismissal shall be deemed to be in the interest of the economy or efficiency of the participants in the shared service agreement.

d. In the case of a pilot municipality, a tenured municipal clerk, chief financial officer, assessor, tax collector, municipal superintendent of public works, or municipal treasurer who has been dismissed to effectuate a shared service agreement entered into pursuant to the provisions of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et seq.) shall be reappointed to his or her former position, and shall regain his or her tenured status, if the shared service agreement is cancelled, or expires, within the two-year period immediately following the dismissal of that person.

e. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, a local unit or units may enter into a shared service agreement with a federal military base, to the extent permitted by 10 U.S.C. s.2679, under which services would be provided to the extent a local unit involved in the agreement is empowered to provide those services within its own jurisdiction. This subsection shall not be construed to impact existing federal or State civil service laws, rules, or regulations with respect to federal employees or employees of a local unit. Where federal law and State law conflict regarding the content and duration of such agreements, federal law shall control.

L.2007, c.63, s.4; amended 2013, c.166, s.4; 2017, c.21.

40A:65-4.1 Short title.

1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Common Sense Shared Services Pilot Program Act."

L.2013, c.166, s.1.

40A:65-4.2 Definitions relative to shared services agreements; pilot program established.

3. a. As used in this section:

"Local employee" means a tenured municipal clerk, assessor, collector, chief financial officer, municipal treasurer, or principal public works manager who is a municipal superintendent of public works;

"Pilot county" means Atlantic, Camden, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Sussex, and Warren, counties; and

"Pilot municipality" means a municipality located in a pilot county that enters into a shared services agreement with another pilot municipality pursuant to the provisions of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et seq.) for the services of a local employee.

b. There is established a pilot program to evaluate the efficiency and functionality of the sharing of services of certain local personnel having tenure rights in office. In pilot municipalities, tenure rights shall not prohibit the sharing of services for a municipal clerk, a chief financial officer, an assessor, a tax collector, a municipal treasurer, or a municipal superintendent of public works. Under the pilot program, municipalities located in pilot counties may enter into shared services agreements, pursuant to the provisions of P.L.2007,

c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et seq.), for the services of tenured local employees, and provide for the dismissal of any tenured local employees who are not selected to be service providers under the shared services agreement.

In a shared service agreement between pilot municipalities for the services of a municipal clerk, a chief financial officer, an assessor, a tax collector, a municipal treasurer, or a municipal superintendent of public works, the agent-party, as that term is defined in subsection d. of section 7 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-7), shall select for employment under the agreement one of the employees of the pilot municipalities that are party to the agreement who was employed in that same capacity by one of the pilot municipalities prior to the approval of the agreement. The shared service agreement shall address the proportion of work hours that the selected employee shall dedicate towards each pilot municipality, and any additional compensation that the selected employee may receive for assuming additional duties under the agreement. If the selected employee receives additional compensation for assuming additional duties under the agreement, the additional compensation shall not be reduced during the term of the agreement without good cause.

c. A tenured municipal clerk, chief financial officer, assessor, tax collector, municipal superintendent of public works, or municipal treasurer may be dismissed to effectuate the sharing of a service entered into pursuant to the provisions of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et seq.), and such dismissal shall be deemed to be in the interest of the economy or efficiency of the participants in the shared service agreement. A tenured municipal clerk, chief financial officer, assessor, tax collector, municipal superintendent of public works, or municipal treasurer who has been dismissed to effectuate a shared service agreement entered into pursuant to the provisions of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et seq.) shall be reappointed to his or her former position, and shall regain his or her tenured status, if the shared service agreement is cancelled, or expires, within the two-year period immediately following the dismissal of that person. If the shared service agreement is cancelled, or expires, within the two-year period immediately following the dismissal, the reappointed employee shall be entitled to the same level of salary or wages as the employee had received at the time of the dismissal, augmented by any increases in salary granted to all other tenured employees by ordinance while the shared service agreement was in effect.

L.2013, c.166, s.3; amended 2018, c.140, s.1.

40A:65-5 Adoption of resolution to enter into agreement.

a. A local unit authorized to enter into an agreement under section 4 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-4) may do so by the adoption of a resolution. In the case of a shared service agreement between pilot municipalities, no agreement shall be adopted until copies of the agreement shall be provided to all affected employees of the local units that are party to the agreement at least two weeks before adoption of the resolution, and a public hearing has been held on the agreement, so that all persons having an interest in the agreement shall have been given an opportunity to present comments or objections concerning the content of the agreement, or the effect of the agreement. During the public hearing, the local unit shall provide an overview of the terms of the agreement and an estimate of the cost savings anticipated to be achieved by the local units that are the parties to the agreement. A resolution adopted pursuant to this section or subsection b. of that section shall clearly identify the agreement by reference and need not set forth the terms of the agreement in full.

b. In the case of a shared services agreement between pilot municipalities, a copy of the

agreement shall be open to public inspection at the offices of the local unit at least two weeks prior to the adoption of a resolution to become a party to the agreement.

c. The agreement shall take effect upon the adoption of appropriate resolutions by all the parties thereto, and execution of agreements authorized thereunder as set forth in the agreement.

L.2007, c.63, s.5; amended 2013, c.166, s.5.

40A:65-6 Local units sharing services, designation of primary employer; rules, regulations.

a. In the case of an agreement for the provision of services by an officer or employee of a local unit who is required to comply with a State license or certification requirement as a condition of employment, the agreement shall provide for the payment of a salary to the officer or employee and shall designate one of the local units as the primary employer of the officer or employee for the purpose of that person's tenure rights. If the agreement fails to designate one of the local units as the primary employer, then the local unit having the largest population, shall be deemed the primary employer for the purposes of that person's tenure rights.

b. A State department or agency with oversight over specific activities that are the subject of a shared service agreement may promulgate whatever rules and regulations it deems necessary to ensure that the service continues to be provided in accordance with the requirements of that department or agency.

40A:65-7 Specific services delineated in agreement; conditions.

7. a. An agreement made pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-4) shall specify:

- (1) the specific services to be performed by one or more of the parties as agent for any other party or parties;
- (2) standards of the level, quality, and scope of performance, with assignment and allocation of responsibility for meeting those standards between or among the parties;
- (3) the estimated cost of the services throughout the duration of the agreement, with allocation of those costs to the parties, in dollar amounts or by formula, including a time schedule for periodic payment of installments for those allocations, and in the case of a shared service agreement between pilot municipalities, an estimate of the cost savings anticipated to be achieved by the local units that are the parties to the agreement. The specification may provide for the periodic modification of estimates or formulas contained therein in the light of actual experience and in accordance with procedures to be specified in the agreement;
- (4) the duration of the agreement, which shall be 10 years, unless otherwise agreed upon by the parties, but in no case shall the duration of any agreement between pilot municipalities be less than two years; and
- (5) the procedure for payments to be made under the contract.

b. In the case when all of the participating local units are municipalities, the agreement may provide that it shall not take effect until submitted to the voters of each municipality and approved by a majority of the voters of each municipality voting at the referendum.

c. The agreement may provide for binding arbitration or for binding fact-finding procedures to settle any disputes or questions which may arise between the parties as to the interpretation of the terms of the agreement or the satisfactory performance by any of the parties of the services and other responsibilities required by the agreement.

d. For the purposes of sections 4 through 13 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-4 through C.40A:65-13), any party performing a service under a shared service agreement is the general agent of any other party on whose behalf that service is performed pursuant to the agreement, and that agent-party has full powers of performance and maintenance of the service contracted for, and full powers to undertake any ancillary operation reasonably necessary or convenient to carry out its duties, obligations and responsibilities under the agreement. These powers include all powers of enforcement and administrative regulation which are, or may be, exercised by the party on whose behalf the agent-party acts pursuant to the agreement, except as the powers are limited by the terms of the agreement itself, and except that no contracting party shall be liable for any part or share of the cost of acquiring, constructing, or maintaining any capital facility acquired or constructed by an agent-party unless that part or share is provided for in the agreement, or in an amendment thereto ratified by the contracting parties in the manner provided in sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.) for entering into an agreement.

e. Except as the terms of any agreement may explicitly or by necessary implication provide, any party to an agreement entered into pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-4) may enter into another agreement or agreements with any other eligible parties for the performance of any service or services pursuant to sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.). The participation in one agreement shall not bar participation with the same or other parties in any other agreement.

f. Payment for services performed pursuant to an agreement shall be made by and to the parties, and at such intervals, as shall be provided in the agreement.

g. In the event of any dispute as to the amount to be paid, the full amount to be paid as provided in subsection a. of this section shall be paid; but if through subsequent negotiation, arbitration or litigation the amount due shall be determined, agreed or adjudicated to be less than was actually so paid, then the party having received the payment shall forthwith repay the excess.

L.2007, c.63, s.7; amended 2013, c.166, s.6.

40A:65-8 Preservation of seniority, tenure, pension rights for law enforcement officers.

a. Whenever two or more local units enter into an agreement, pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-4), for the shared provision of law enforcement services within their respective jurisdictions, the agreement shall recognize and preserve the seniority, tenure, and pension rights of every full-time law enforcement officer who is employed by each of the participating local units and who is in good standing at the time the ordinance authorizing the agreement is adopted, and none of those law enforcement officers shall be terminated, except for cause; provided, however, this provision shall not be construed to prevent or prohibit a merged law enforcement entity from reducing force as provided by law for reasons of economy and efficiency.

b. To provide for the efficient administration and operation of the shared law enforcement services within the participating local units, the agreement may provide for the appointment of a chief of police or other chief law enforcement officer. In that case, the agreement shall identify the appropriate authority to whom the chief of police or other chief law enforcement officer reports and also shall provide that any person who is serving as the chief of police or other chief law enforcement officer in one of the participating local units at the time the contract is adopted may elect either:

- (1) to accept a demotion of no more than one rank without any loss of seniority rights, impairment of tenure, or pension rights; or
- (2) to retire from service.

A person who elects retirement shall not be demoted but shall retain the rank of chief of police or other chief law enforcement officer and shall be given terminal leave for a period of one month for each five-year period of past service as a law enforcement officer with a participating local unit. During the terminal leave, the person shall continue to receive full compensation and shall be entitled to all benefits, including any increases in compensation or benefits, that he may have been entitled to if he had remained on active duty.

c. Whenever the participating local units have adopted or are deemed to have adopted Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes with regard to the provision of law enforcement services, and the agreement provides for the appointment of a chief of police or other chief law enforcement officer, the position of chief of police or other chief law enforcement officer shall be in the career service.

40A:65-9 Awarding of public contracts.

If any local unit performs a service on behalf of one or more other local units that are parties to an agreement that utilizes a private contractor to perform all or most of that service, or all or most of a specific and separate segment of that service, then that local unit shall award the contract for the work to be performed by a private contractor under the agreement in accordance with the “Local Public Contracts Law,” P.L.1971, c.198 C.40A:11-1 et seq.).

40A:65-10 Approval of award of contract.

In the event that any authority, board, commission, district, joint meeting, or other body created by one or more local units proposes to enter into a contract under sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.), whereby that entity agrees to have performed on its behalf services, the cost of which shall equal one-half or more of the total costs of the services being performed by that entity immediately prior to the adoption of the proposed contract, then the contract shall require approval by resolution of the governing body of each local unit which created the entity or which has become a participant therein subsequent to its creation.

40A:65-11 Employment reconciliation plan included in agreement; conditions.

a. When a local unit contracts, through a shared service or joint meeting, to have another local unit or a joint meeting provide a service it is currently providing using public employees and one or more of the local units have adopted Title 11A, Civil Service, then the agreement shall include an employment reconciliation plan in accordance with this section that and, if one or more of the local units have adopted Title 11A, Civil Service, shall specifically set forth the intended jurisdiction of the Department of Personnel. An employment reconciliation plan shall be subject to the following provisions:

(1) a determination of those employees, if any, that shall be transferred to the providing local unit, retained by the recipient local unit, or terminated from employment for reasons of economy or efficiency, subject to the provisions of any existing collective bargaining agreements within the local units.

(2) any employee terminated for reasons of economy or efficiency by the local unit providing the service under the shared service agreement shall be given a terminal leave

payment of not less than a period of one month for each five-year period of past service as an employee with the local unit, or other enhanced benefits that may be provided or negotiated. For the purposes of this paragraph, "terminal leave payment" means a single, lump sum payment, paid at termination, calculated using the regular base salary at the time of termination. Unless otherwise negotiated or provided by the employer, a terminal leave benefit shall not include extended payment, or payment for retroactive salary increases, bonuses, overtime, longevity, sick leave, accrued vacation or other time benefit, or any other benefit.

(3) the Department of Personnel shall place any employee that has permanent status pursuant to Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes that is terminated for reasons of economy or efficiency at any time by either local unit on a special reemployment list for any civil service employer within the county of the agreement or any political subdivision therein.

(4) when a proposed shared service agreement affects employees in local units subject to Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, an employment reconciliation plan shall be filed with the Department of Personnel prior to the approval of the shared service agreement. The department shall review it for consistency with this section within 45 days of receipt and it shall be deemed approved, subject to approval of the shared service agreement by the end of that time, unless the department has responded with a denial or conditions that must be met in order for it to be approved.

(5) when an action is required of the Department of Personnel by this section, parties to a planned shared service agreement may consult with that department in advance of the action and the department shall provide such technical support as may be necessary to assist in the preparation of an employment reconciliation plan or any other action required of the department by this section.

b. If all the local units that are parties to the agreement are subject to the provisions of Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, the Department of Personnel shall create an implementation plan for the agreement that will: (1) transfer employees with current status in current title unless reclassified, or (2) reclassify employees into job titles that best reflect the work to be performed. The Department of Personnel shall review whether any existing hiring or promotional lists should be merged, inactivated, or reannounced. Non-transferred employees shall be removed or suspended only for good cause and after the opportunity for a hearing before the Merit System Board; provided, however, that they may be laid-off in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.11A:8-1 et seq., and the regulations promulgated thereunder. The final decision of which employees shall transfer to the new employer is vested solely with the local unit that will provide the service and subject to the provisions of any existing collective bargaining agreements within the local units.

c. If the local unit that will provide the service pursuant to a shared service agreement is subject to Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, but the local unit to receive the service is not subject to that Title, and the contracting local units desire that some or all employees of the recipient local unit are to be transferred to the providing local unit, the Department of Personnel shall vest only those employees who have been employed for one year or more in permanent status pursuant to N.J.S.11A:9-9 in appropriate titles, seniority, and tenure with the providing local unit based on the duties of the position. The final decision of which employees shall transfer to the new employer is vested solely with the local unit that will provide the service and subject to the provisions of any existing collective bargaining

agreements within the local units.

d. If the local unit that will provide the service is not subject to the provisions of Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, but the local unit that will receive the service is subject to that Title and the parties desire that some or all employees of the recipient local unit are to be transferred to the providing local unit, the transferred employees shall be granted tenure in office and shall only be removed or suspended for good cause and after a hearing; provided, however, that they may be laid-off in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.11A:8-1 et seq., and the regulations promulgated thereunder. The transferred employees shall be subject to layoff procedures prior to the transfer to the new entity. Once transferred, they will be subject to any employment contracts and provisions that exist for the new entity. The final decision of which employees shall transfer to the new employer is vested solely with the local unit that will provide the service and subject to the provisions of any existing collective bargaining agreements within the local units.

40A:65-12 Provision of technical advice by Public Employment Relations Commission.

The Public Employment Relations Commission is specifically authorized to provide technical advice, pursuant to section 12 of P.L.1968, c.303 (C.34:13A-8.3), and mediation services to integrate separate labor agreements into single agreements for the shared service agreement. The commission may order binding arbitration, pursuant to P.L.1995, c.425 (C.34:13A-14a et al.), to integrate any labor agreement.

40A:65-13 Construction of power to share services.

It is the intent of the Legislature to facilitate and promote shared service agreements, and therefore the grant of power under sections 1 through 35 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 through C.40A:65-35) is intended to be as broad as is consistent with general law.

SUBARTICLE C. JOINT MEETINGS

40A:65-14 Joint contract for joint meeting for public services.

a. The governing bodies of any two or more local units may enter into a joint contract, for a period not to exceed 40 years, to provide for the formation of a joint meeting for the joint operation of any public services, public improvements, works, facilities, or undertakings which the local units are empowered to operate. The contract shall be entered into in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection b. of section 16 of this bill.

b. A joint contract may provide for joint services for any services which any contracting local unit, on whose behalf those services are to be performed, is legally authorized to provide for itself. Those services include, but are not limited to, general government administration, health, police and fire protection, code enforcement, assessment and collection of taxes, financial administration, environmental protection, joint municipal courts, and youth, senior citizens and social welfare programs.

c. The joint contract shall set forth the public services, public improvements, works, facilities, or undertakings which the contracting local units desire to operate jointly and shall provide in general terms the manner in which the public services, public improvements, works, facilities or undertakings shall be jointly operated, and the respective duties and responsibilities of the contracting local units.

d. No joint contract pursuant to this section shall authorize the operation of any property

or service defined as a “public utility” by R.S.48:2-13, except as may otherwise be provided by law.

40A:65-15 Joint meeting deemed public body corporate and politic; powers.

(5) A joint meeting is a public body corporate and politic constituting a political subdivision of the State for the exercise of public and essential governmental functions to provide for the public health and welfare.

b. A joint meeting has the following powers and authority, which may be exercised by its management committee to the extent provided for in the joint contract:

(1) to sue and be sued;

(2) to acquire and hold real and personal property by deed, gift, grant, lease, purchase, condemnation or otherwise;

(3) to enter into any and all contracts or agreements and to execute any and all instruments;

(4) to do and perform any and all acts or things necessary, convenient or desirable for the purposes of the joint meeting or to carry out any powers expressly given in sections 1 through 35 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 through C.40A:65-35);

(5) to sell real and personal property owned by the joint meeting at public sale;

(6) to operate all services, lands, public improvements, works, facilities or undertakings for the purposes and objects of the joint meeting;

(7) to enter into a contract or contracts providing for or relating to the use of its services, lands, public improvements, works, facilities or undertakings, or any part thereof, by local units who are not members of the joint meeting, and other persons, upon payment of charges therefore as fixed by the management committee;

(8) to receive whatever State or federal aid or grants that may be available for the purposes of the joint meeting and to make and perform any agreements and contracts that are necessary or convenient in connection with the application for, procurement, acceptance, or disposition of such State or federal aid or grants; and

(9) to acquire, maintain, use, and operate lands, public improvements, works, or facilities in any municipality in the State, except where the governing body of the municipality, by resolution adopted within 60 days after receipt of written notice of intention to so acquire, maintain, use, or operate, shall find that the same would adversely affect the governmental operations and functions and the exercise of the police powers of that municipality.

c. If the governing body of a municipality in which a joint meeting has applied for the location and erection of sewage treatment or solid waste disposal facilities refuses permission therefore or fails to take final action upon the application within 60 days of its filing, the joint meeting may, at any time within 30 days following the date of such refusal or the date of expiration of the 60-day period, apply to the Department of Environmental Protection for relief. That department is authorized, after hearing the joint meeting and the interested municipality, to grant the application for the erection of the sewage treatment or disposal or solid waste treatment or disposal facilities, notwithstanding the refusal or failure to act of the municipal governing body, upon being satisfied that the topographical and other physical conditions existing in the local units comprising the joint meeting are such as to make the erection of such facilities within its boundaries impracticable as an improvement for the benefit of the whole applying joint meeting.

40A:65-16 Provisions of joint contract.

a. The joint contract shall provide for the operation of the public services, public improvements, works, facilities, or undertakings of the joint meeting, for the apportionment of the costs and expenses of operation required therefore among the contracting local units, for the addition of other local units as members of the joint meeting, for the terms and conditions of continued participation and discontinuance of participation in the joint meeting by the contracting local units, and for such other terms and conditions as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the joint meeting. The apportionment of costs and expenses may be based upon assessed valuations, population, and such other factor or factors, or any combination thereof, as may be provided in the joint contract.

b. (1) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary concerning approval of contracts, the joint contract shall be subject to approval by resolution of the governing bodies of each of the local units prior to its execution by the official or officials who are authorized to execute a joint contract.

(2) The joint contract shall specify the name by which the joint meeting shall be known.

(3) The joint contract may be amended from time to time by agreement of the parties thereto, in the same manner as the original contract was authorized and approved.

(4) A copy of every resolution creating a joint meeting, and every amendment thereto, shall be forthwith filed with the director.

40A:65-17 Preservation of seniority, tenure, pension rights of law enforcement officers.

a. Whenever the governing bodies of two or more local units enter into a joint contract for the joint operation of law enforcement services within their respective jurisdictions, the contract shall recognize and preserve the seniority, tenure, and pension rights of every fulltime law enforcement officer who is employed by each of the contracting local units and who is in good standing at the time the ordinance or resolution, as the case may be, authorizing the contract is adopted, and none of those law enforcement officers shall be terminated, except for cause; provided, however, this provision shall not be construed to prevent or prohibit a merged law enforcement entity from reducing force as provided by law for reasons of economy and efficiency.

b. (1) To provide for the efficient administration and operation of the joint law enforcement services within the participating local units, the joint contract may provide for the appointment of a chief of police or other chief law enforcement officer. In that case, the joint contract shall identify the appropriate authority to whom the chief of police or other chief law enforcement officer reports and also shall provide that any person who is serving as the chief of police or other chief law enforcement officer in one of the participating local units at the time the joint contract is adopted may elect either:

(a) to accept a demotion of no more than one rank without any loss of seniority rights, impairment of tenure, or pension rights; or

(b) to retire from service.

(2) Any person who elects retirement shall not be demoted but shall retain the rank of chief of police or other chief law enforcement officer and shall be given terminal leave for a period of one month for each five-year period of past service as a law enforcement officer with the participating local unit. During the terminal leave, the person shall continue to receive full compensation and shall be entitled to all benefits, including any increases in compensation or benefits, that he may have been entitled to if he had remained on active duty.

c. Whenever the participating local units have adopted or are deemed to have adopted Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes with regard to the provision of law enforcement services, and the contract provides for the appointment of a chief of police or other chief law enforcement officer, the position of chief law enforcement officer shall be in the career service.

40A:65-18 Applicability of terms of existing labor contracts.

a. When a joint meeting merges bargaining units that have current contracts negotiated in accordance with the provisions of the “New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act,” P.L.1941, c.100 (C.34:13A-1 et seq.), the terms and conditions of the existing contracts shall apply to the rights of the members of the respective bargaining units until a new contract is negotiated, reduced to writing, and signed by the parties as provided pursuant to law and regulation promulgated thereunder.

b. The Public Employment Relations Commission is specifically authorized to provide technical advice, pursuant to section 12 of P.L.1968, c.303 (C.34:13A-8.3), and mediation services to integrate separate labor agreements into single agreements for the joint contract. The commission may order binding arbitration, pursuant to P.L.1995, c.425 (C.34:13A-14a et al.), to integrate any labor agreement.

40A:65-19 Employment reconciliation plan; provisions.

a. When a local unit agrees to participate in a joint meeting that will provide a service that the local unit is currently providing itself through public employees, the agreement shall include an employment reconciliation plan in accordance with this section. An employment reconciliation plan shall be subject to the following provisions:

(1) a determination of those employees, if any, that shall be transferred to the joint meeting, retained by the contracting local unit, or terminated from employment for reasons of economy or efficiency subject to the provisions of any collective bargaining agreements within the local units.

(2) any employee terminated for reasons of economy or efficiency by the contracting local unit providing the service or by the joint meeting shall be given a terminal leave payment of not less than a period of one month for each five-year period of past service as an employee with the local unit, or other enhanced benefits that may be provided or negotiated. Unless otherwise negotiated or provided by the employer, a terminal leave benefit shall not include extended payment, or payment for retroactive salary increases, bonuses, overtime, longevity, sick leave, accrued vacation or other time benefit, or any other benefit.

(3) the Department of Personnel shall place any employee that has permanent status pursuant to Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes that is terminated for reasons of economy or efficiency at any time by either local unit on a special reemployment list for any civil service employer within the county of the agreement or any political subdivision therein.

(4) when a proposed joint contract affects employees in local units that operate under the provisions of Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, an employment reconciliation plan shall be filed with the Department of Personnel prior to the approval of the joint meeting agreement. That department shall review the plan for consistency with this section within 45 days of receipt and it shall be deemed approved, subject to approval of the joint meeting agreement by the end of that time, unless that department has responded with a

denial or conditions that must be met in order for it to be approved.

(5) when an action is required of the Department of Personnel by this section, parties to a proposed joint contract may consult with the department in advance of the action and the department shall provide such technical support as may be necessary to assist in the preparation of an employment reconciliation plan or any other action required of the department by this section.

b. If both the local unit and joint meeting operate under the provisions of Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, the Department of Personnel shall create an implementation plan for employees to be hired by the joint meeting that will: (1) transfer employees with current status in current title unless reclassified or (2) reclassify employees, if necessary, into job titles that best reflect the work to be performed. The Department of Personnel shall review whether any existing hiring or promotional lists should be merged, inactivated, or re-announced. Non-transferred employees shall be removed or suspended only for good cause and after the opportunity for a hearing before the Merit System Board; provided, however, that they may be laid-off in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.11A:8-1 et seq., and the regulations promulgated thereunder. The final decision of which employees shall transfer to the new employer is vested solely with the local unit that will provide the service and subject to the provisions of any existing collective bargaining agreements within the local units.

c. If the joint meeting operates under the provisions of Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, and a local unit receiving the service is not subject to that Title, and the parties desire that some or all employees of the local unit be transferred to the joint meeting, the Department of Personnel shall vest only those employees who have been employed one year or more in permanent status pursuant to N.J.S.40A:9-9 in appropriate titles, seniority, and tenure with the providing local unit based on the duties of the position. The final decision of which employees shall transfer to the new employer is vested solely with the joint meeting and subject to the agreements affecting the parties, provided that those agreements do not conflict with the provisions of any existing collective bargaining agreements within the local units.

d. (1) If the joint meeting does not operate under the provisions of Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, and the local unit receiving the service is subject to that Title, and the parties desire that some or all employees of the recipient local unit are to be transferred to the joint meeting, then the transferred employees shall be granted tenure in office and shall be removed or suspended only for good cause and after a hearing. The transferred employees shall be subject to layoff procedures prior to the transfer to the new entity. Once transferred, they will be subject to any employment contracts and provisions that exist for the new entity. The final decision of which employees shall transfer to the joint meeting is vested solely with the joint meeting and subject to the provisions of any existing collective bargaining agreements within the local units.

(2) A joint meeting established after the effective date of sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.) that affects both employees in local units subject to Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes and employees in local units not subject to that Title, shall determine whether the employees of the joint meeting shall be subject to the Title. If the joint meeting determines that the employees shall not be subject to Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, then the employees from the local units in which the Title is in effect shall have the same rights as employees transferred pursuant to paragraph (1) of this

subsection.

40A:65-20 Constitution, appointment of management committee.

a. The joint contract shall provide for the constitution and appointment of a management committee to consist of at least three members, of which one shall be appointed by the governing body of each of the local units executing the joint contract. The members shall be residents of the appointing local unit, except that a member who is the chief financial officer, business administrator, municipal administrator, or municipal manager of the local unit making the appointment need not be a resident of the appointing local unit. The appointees may or may not be members of the appointing governing body. Each member of the management committee shall hold office for the term of one year and until the member's successor has been appointed and qualified. In the event that there is an even number of local units that are parties to the joint contract, the management committee shall consist of one member appointed by each of the governing bodies and one member selected by the two other appointed members.

b. The management committee shall elect annually from among its members a chair to preside over its meetings. The management committee may appoint such other officers and employees, including counsel, who need not be members of the management committee or members of the governing bodies or employees or residents of the local units, as it may deem necessary. The employees appointed by the management committee shall hold office for such term not exceeding four years as may be provided by the joint contract. The management committee shall adopt rules and regulations to provide for the conduct of its meetings and the duties and powers of the chairman and such other officers and employees as may be appointed. All actions of the management committee shall be by vote of the majority of the entire membership of the committee, except for those matters for which the contract requires a greater number and shall be binding on all local units who have executed the joint contract. The management committee shall exercise all of the powers of the joint meeting subject to the provisions of the joint contract.

The joint contract may provide for the delegation of the administration of any or all of the services, lands, public improvements, works, facilities or undertakings of the joint meeting to the governing body of any one of the several contracting local units, in which event such governing body shall have and exercise all of the powers and authority of the management committee with respect to such delegated functions.

40A:65-21 Apportionment of operating costs by management committee.

The cost of acquiring, constructing, and operating any public improvements, works, facilities, services, or undertakings, or any part thereof, as determined by the management committee, shall be apportioned among the participating local units as provided by the joint contract. Each local unit shall have power to raise and appropriate the funds necessary therefore in the same manner and to the same extent as the local unit would have if it were acquiring and constructing the same for itself, including the power to authorize and issue bonds or other obligations pursuant to the "Local Bond Law," N.J.S.40A:2-1 et seq. The management committee shall certify to the participating local units the cost of the acquisition or construction, as well as the apportioned shares thereof, within 15 days after its action thereon.

40A:65-22 Certification of costs and expenses by management committee.

The management committee, not later than November 1 of each year, shall certify to the participating local units the total costs and expenses of operation, other than acquisition and construction costs, of the services, public improvements, works, facilities, or undertakings for the ensuing year, in accordance with the terms and provisions of the joint contract, together with an apportionment of the costs and expenses of operation among the participating local units in accordance with the method of apportionment provided in the joint contract. It shall be the duty of each participating local unit to include its apportioned share of such costs and expenses of operation in its annual budget, and to pay over to the management committee its apportioned share as provided in the joint contract. Operations under the budget and related matters shall be subject to and in accordance with rules of the Local Finance Board or the Commissioner of Education, as appropriate. The Local Finance Board shall be responsible for the determination of the appropriate rule-making authority with regard to each joint contract. For the first year of operation under the joint contract, a participating local unit may adopt a supplemental or emergency appropriation for the purpose of paying its apportioned share of the costs and expenses of operation, if provision therefore has not been made in the annual budget.

40A:65-23 Termination of joint contract.

The joint contract shall be terminated upon the adoption of a resolution to that effect by the governing bodies of two-thirds of the local units then participating; except that if only two local units are then participating, adoption of a resolution by both units shall be required to terminate the contract. The termination shall not be made effective earlier than the end of the fiscal year next succeeding the fiscal year in which the last of the required number of local units adopts its termination resolution.

40A:65-24 Existing joint meeting, public school jointure unaffected.

Any joint meeting or public-school jointure formed under a previous law is continued and shall be governed under the provisions of sections 1 through 35 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C. 40A:65-1 through C.40A:65-35).

SUBARTICLE D. LOCAL OPTION MUNICIPAL CONSOLIDATION

40A:65-25 Findings, declarations relative to municipal consolidation.

(5) The Legislature finds and declares that in order to encourage municipalities to increase efficiency through municipal consolidation for the purpose of reducing expenses borne by their property taxpayers, more flexible options need to be available to the elected municipal officials and voters than are available through the “Municipal Consolidation Act,” P.L.1977, c.435 (C.40:43-66.35 et al.).

b. (1) In lieu of the procedures set forth in the “Municipal Consolidation Act,” P.L.1977, c.435 (C.40:43-66.35 et al.), the governing bodies from two or more contiguous municipalities may apply to the board for either:

- (a) approval of a plan to consolidate their municipalities; or
- (b) creation of a Municipal Consolidation Study Commission, as described in subsection c. of this section.

(2) A representative committee of registered voters from two or more contiguous municipalities may petition the board for the creation of a Municipal Consolidation Study Commission, as described in subsection c. of this section. The petition, to be sufficient, shall be signed by the registered and qualified voters of the municipalities in a number at least equal to 10% of the total votes cast in those municipalities at the last preceding general election at which members of the General Assembly were elected. The board shall also accept a combination of applications from local governing bodies, pursuant to subparagraph (b) of paragraph (1) of this subsection, and petitions from representative committees of registered voters, pursuant to this paragraph from two or more contiguous municipalities, requesting the creation of a Municipal Consolidation Study Commission; however, if each municipality submits an application from its governing body, any proposed consolidation plan shall be approved by voter referendum in each of the municipalities

(3) The board shall provide application forms and technical assistance to any governing bodies or voters desiring to apply to the board for approval of a consolidation plan or the creation of a Municipal Consolidation Study Commission.

(4) A consolidation commission established pursuant to P.L.1977, c.435 (C.40:43-66.35 et seq.) in the year prior to enactment of sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.) may apply to the Local Finance Board for approval to use the provisions of section 25 through 29 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-25 through C.40A:65-29).

c. An application to create a Municipal Consolidation Study Commission shall propose a process to study the feasibility of consolidating the participating municipalities into a single new municipality or merging one into the other. The application shall include provisions for:

(1) the means of selection and qualifications of study commissioners;

(2) the timeframe for the study, which shall be no more than three years, along with key events and deadlines, including time for review of the report by State agencies, which review shall be no less than three months;

(3) whether a preliminary report shall be issued in addition to the final report;

(4) whether the development of a consolidation implementation plan will be a part of the study;

(5) the means for any proposed consolidation plan to be approved; either by voter referendum, by the governing bodies, or both; and

(6) if proposed by a representative group of voters, justification of that group's standing to serve as the community advocate for the consolidation proposal.

d. (1) An application to the board for consideration of a consolidation plan or to create a Municipal Consolidation Study Commission shall be subject to a public hearing within each municipality to be studied, and a joint public hearing in a place that is easily accessible to the residents of both or all of the municipalities.

(2) The public hearings shall be facilitated by the board and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the "Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.).

(3) After approval of a plan by the board, it may be amended upon petition to the board by the applicant. Based on the nature of the amendment, the board may decide to hold a public hearing in any of the municipalities affected by the plan, or at a regular meeting, or both.

e. Every Municipal Consolidation Study Commission shall include a representative of the Department of Community Affairs as a non-voting representative on the commission. The representative shall not be a resident of a municipality participating in the study. The

department shall prepare an objective fiscal study of the fiscal aspects of a consolidation and shall provide it to the commission in a timely manner.

f. If the consolidation would include the consolidation of boards of education, a person appointed by the Commissioner of Education shall serve as a non-voting member of that Municipal Consolidation Study Commission. The representative of the Commissioner of Education shall not be a resident of a community participating in the study. The county superintendent of schools shall conduct a study on the impact of consolidation on the educational system and its finances. The report shall be provided to the commission in a timely manner.

g. There shall be no more than one of either a consolidation plan study, a Municipal Consolidation Study Commission, or a joint municipal consolidation created under the "Municipal Consolidation Act," P.L.1977, c.435 (C.40:43-66.35 et al.), active in a single municipality at the same time. In the event that more than one application is filed with the board or is being considered by the governing bodies while another action affecting the same municipality or municipalities is under consideration, the board shall consider the applications and shall join any proposed creation of a joint municipal consolidation together and approve only one action as the board deems to be in the public interest. Prior to approving a single action, the board shall hold a public hearing permitting all parties to present testimony on the merits of their action in relation to the other proposals. Once an action is approved by the board, another action from the same combination of municipalities shall not be approved for at least five years.

h. In considering its decisions under sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.), the Local Finance Board and any other State agency shall take into account local conditions, the reasonableness of proposed decisions, and the facilitation of the consolidation process in making decisions concerning consolidation.

40A:65-26 Required information included in Municipal Consolidation Study Commission Reports.

(5) A consolidation plan or report of a Municipal Consolidation Study Commission shall include the provisions of sections 16 and 24 of P.L.1977, c.435 (C.40:43-66.50 and 40:43-66.58), insofar as they are consistent with the provisions of sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.). In addition, a consolidation plan shall address the following implementation issues:

- (1) a timetable for implementing the consolidation plan;
- (2) duplicate positions, including those held by tenured, certified officers, listing those positions proposed to be abolished for reasons of economy, efficiency or other good cause and listing those positions proposed to be merged; and
- (3) applicability of the provisions of Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, if Title 11A has been adopted by one or more consolidating municipalities.

b. The following policies may be considered and implemented under an application for approval of a consolidation plan, and may be included as part of a study under the "Municipal Consolidation Act," P.L.1977, c.435 (C.40:43-66.35 et al.), or as part of a study conducted by a Municipal Consolidation Study Commission pursuant to sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.):

- (1) creation of a consolidation implementation plan to establish a timetable of significant events and goals to be achieved as part of a consolidation study;

(2) a phase-in of a consolidation over a fixed period of time. Such a plan shall be subject to review and approval of the Local Finance Board prior to it being approved by the governing bodies or subject to voter referendum;

(3) variations from existing State law or State department rules that may not have anticipated a phase-in or consolidation of services. When variations are proposed, they shall be submitted to the board which shall refer it to the agency with oversight responsibility. After due consideration, the referee agency is empowered to waive such law or rules if a waiver is found reasonable to further the process of consolidation. Where no such agency exists, the Commissioner of Community Affairs shall act on behalf of the State. These requests shall be acted on within 45 days of their receipt by an agency, and they shall be deemed approved, subject to approval of a consolidation proposal by the municipalities, by the end of that time unless the agency has responded with a denial, conditions that must be met in order for it to be approved, or an alternative approach to resolving the matter;

(4) the use of advisory planning districts, comprised of residents living in the former territories of each former municipality, to provide advice to the planning board and the zoning board of adjustment on applications and master plan changes affecting those areas. A consolidation study plan shall specify the types and nature of the development and zoning applications that the advisory planning districts shall review and the official boards shall be required to respond, at a public meeting, to each suggestion made by an advisory planning district;

(5) the establishment of service districts comprised of the boundaries of any or all of the former municipalities which may be used to allocate resources and used for official geographic references in the new municipality;

(6) the continued use of boundary lines of any or all of the former municipalities to continue local ordinances that existed prior to consolidation that the governing body deems necessary and appropriate. The need for any such differentiation shall be reviewed by the governing body at least every five years and shall only be continued upon the affirmative vote of the full membership of the governing body, and if such continuance fails, the governing body shall then adopt uniform policies for the entire area; and

(7) the apportionment of existing debt between the taxpayers of the consolidating municipalities, including whether existing debt should be apportioned in the same manner as debt within special taxing districts so that the taxpayers of each consolidating municipality will continue to be responsible for their own pre-consolidation debts.

c. When one of the municipalities is subject to the provisions of Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, the question of whether the new municipality shall be subject to the provisions of that Title shall be the subject of a public referendum before all of the voters of the consolidating municipalities. Upon the approval by a majority of those voting, regardless of their municipality of residence, the new municipality shall be subject to the provisions of that Title.

40A:65-27 Creation of task force to facilitate consolidation.

a. Once a consolidation has been approved by the affected municipal governing bodies or voters, the division shall create a task force of State departments, offices and agencies, as it deems appropriate, and representatives of affected negotiations units, to facilitate the consolidation and provide technical assistance.

b. When a consolidation plan provides that the consolidated municipality will be subject

to the provisions of Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes the Department of Personnel is specifically authorized to create a consolidation implementation plan to vest non-civil service employees, based on the education and experience of the individuals, in appropriate titles and tenure.

c. Whenever a referendum question to decide if a consolidated municipality shall be subject to the provisions of Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes fails, the employees of a municipality already subject to that Title shall be given non-civil service titles in the new entity and previously held tenure shall be vacated.

d. The Public Employment Relations Commission is authorized to provide technical advice, pursuant to section 12 of P.L.1968, c.303 (C.34:13A-8.3), to assist a new municipality and existing labor unions to integrate separate labor agreements into consolidated agreements and to adjust the structure of collective negotiations units, as the commission determines appropriate for the consolidated municipality.

40A:65-28 Equalization of property assessments for apportionment of taxes.

a. If a revaluation of property for the consolidated municipality is not implemented for the first local budget year of the consolidated municipality, then the assessments on the properties owned by the taxpayers of the former municipalities shall be equalized for the apportionment of taxes for the consolidated municipality, in the same manner as assessments are equalized for the apportionment of county taxes.

b. The owners of any residential property or residential tenants of any municipality consolidated under sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.), or the "Municipal Consolidation Act," P.L.1977, c.435 (C.40:43-66.35 et al.), who experience a municipal or school district purposes real property tax increase in the first tax year following the municipal consolidation shall be entitled to annual property tax relief until such time as they sell or transfer their home or no longer reside as tenants in the rental unit they occupied just prior to the municipal consolidation. In the case of the owner of residential property, the property tax relief shall be reflected as a credit on the property tax bill equal to the difference between the municipal and school district purposes real property tax payable by the taxpayer for the tax year, subject to any adjustment as determined necessary by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs to reflect operating budgets for a normal pre-consolidated fiscal year, and the municipal and school district purposes real property tax billed to that taxpayer for the tax year during which the consolidation is effectuated, as may be adjusted by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs to reflect normal postconsolidation operating budgets for the municipalities and school districts. In the case of a residential tenant, the tax credit applied to an apartment property shall be distributed to eligible tenants pursuant to the provisions of the "Tenants' Property Tax Rebate Act," P.L.1976, c.63 (C.54:4-6.2 et seq.) and this section. The total of all such relief in the municipality shall be paid by the State to the municipality on a schedule determined by the Local Finance Board. For the purpose of this subsection, a "normal" budget year shall be one that, in the determination of the director, does not reflect expenses made in anticipation of, or in implementation of, a municipal consolidation.

40A:65-29 Construction of law on consolidation appeals.

The provisions of sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.) shall be

liberally construed to effectuate the intention of sections 25 through 28 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-25 through C.40A:65-28). The board is empowered to act to provide guidance, interpretation, and to resolve disputes regarding these sections or the “Municipal Consolidation Act,” P.L.1977, c.435 (C.40:43-66.35 et al.). Decisions of the board may be appealed directly to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court.

SUBARTICLE E. SHARING AVAILABLE RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY PROGRAM

40A:65-30 “Sharing Available Resources Efficiently” (SHARE) program established.

a. A local unit that plans to study the feasibility of a shared service agreement, joint meeting contract, or municipal consolidation may apply to the director for grants or loans to fund the study, including consultant costs, and to fund one-time start-up costs of a shared service agreement or joint meeting contract or municipal consolidation. The director, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall establish a program to be known as the “Sharing Available Resources Efficiently” program, or “SHARE,” to accomplish this purpose, and, in consultation with the commissioner, shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of the program.

b. The director, in consultation with the commissioner, shall provide guidelines and procedures for the submission of SHARE grant and loan applications.

c. Applications for shared service study funds:

(1) May require such local match of funds, as is determined by the director for the studies if the director finds that the local unit is financially capable of providing such matching funds.

(2) Shall not require a local match of funds for consolidation studies under sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.) or the “Municipal Consolidation Act,” P.L.1977, c.435 (C.40:43-66.35 et al.).

(3) Grants for implementation of shared services may include financial assistance for terminal leave benefits, but not for early retirement incentives related to pension contributions.

d. Applications for one-time start-up costs shall provide that:

(1) Local units may apply for financial assistance for the one-time start-up costs necessary to implement shared services. Costs that may be financed through the issuance of debt or capital lease agreements shall be excluded from this program.

(2) The director may set limits on aid awards and negotiate the various provisions, costs, payment provisions, and amounts of grants or loans to ensure that the shared service is cost effective and in the public interest. Financial assistance for costs associated with terminal leave benefits shall be limited to the lesser of the officer or employee’s regular base rate of compensation that is paid for the terminal leave benefit pursuant to an applicable employment contract, local practice, local ordinance, or State law.

e. The director may provide technical support programs to assist local units in applying for grants or aid for studying shared services.

40A:65-31 “Sharing Available Resources Efficiently” account.

There is created a “Sharing Available Resources Efficiently” account within the Property Tax Relief Fund as a non-lapsing revolving account which shall receive moneys as may be credited to it from the Property Tax Relief Fund, the repayments of loans made from the account, and any other funds as may be appropriated to the account from time to time.

Moneys in the account shall be appropriated for the purposes of sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.).

SUBARTICLE F. VOTER PARTICIPATION TO IDENTIFY SHARED SERVICES AND OTHER COST-SAVING OPPORTUNITIES

40A:65-32 Adoption of resolution authorizing certain referenda for citizen's commission.

The governing body of a municipality may adopt, at any regular meeting, a resolution requesting the clerk of the county to print upon the official ballots to be used at the next ensuing regular or general election, as appropriate, a certain proposition to authorize the creation of a citizen's commission, consisting of members of the governing body, appropriate municipal officials such as the municipal purchasing agent, and at least an equal number of residents of the municipality, and to identify and implement shared service, joint meeting, or consolidation opportunities for the municipality. The proposition shall be formulated and expressed in the resolution in concise form and filed with the clerk of the county not later than 74 days previous to the election. If approved by a majority of those voting at the election, the proposition shall be binding and shall constitute the authority for the governing body to appoint members to the citizen's commission and provide resources as it deems necessary.

SUBARTICLE G. MISCELLANEOUS

40A:65-33 Existing agreements, contracts continued.

Any shared service agreement, joint contract for a joint meeting, or agreement to regionalize or consolidate services in existence at the time of enactment of sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.) are continued pursuant to the law in effect at the time that the agreement or contract was executed; provided, however, that any renewals shall be in accordance with the provisions of sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.).

40A:65-34 PERC rules, regulations, fee schedule, grievances, appeals.

a. Any shared service or joint meeting agreement or municipal consolidation shall be deemed in furtherance of the public good and presumed valid, subject to a rebuttable presumption of good faith on the part of the governing bodies entering into the agreement.

b. With regard to any responsibilities assigned to the Public Employment Relations Commission pursuant to sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.):

(1) The commission may promulgate rules or regulations to effectuate the purposes of sections 1 to 37 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 et al.).

(2) The commission may establish a fee schedule to cover the costs of effectuating its services; provided, however, that the fees so assessed shall not exceed the commission's actual cost of effectuating those provisions.

(3) Within 14 days of receiving a decision, a party aggrieved by a decision of a mediator or arbitrator assigned by the commission may file notice of an appeal of an award to the commission. In deciding an appeal, the commission, pursuant to rule and regulation and upon petition, may afford the parties the opportunity to present oral arguments. The commission may affirm, modify, correct or vacate the award or may, at its discretion, remand the award to the same arbitrator or to another arbitrator, selected by lot, for reconsideration. An aggrieved

party may appeal a decision of the commission to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court.

SUBARTICLE H. REPEALER

This therefore repeals the Interlocal Services Act (NJS 40:8A-1 et seq.), the Consolidated Municipal Services Act (NJS 40:48-1 et seq.) and several other statutes. Please refer to the New Jersey Statutes for the full text of this section.

The remaining sections of Chapter 63 modify statutes dealing with local budgets and the powers and duties of County Superintendents of Schools. Please refer to the New Jersey Statutes for the full text of those sections.

SPECIAL NOTE

INTERLOCAL CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION CODE ENFORCEMENT

N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.6 Interlocal enforcing agencies – establishment

(a) Parties: Any two or more municipalities may, by resolution, join to administer and enforce this chapter and any adopted sub code. Any municipalities that are party to an agreement establishing one enforcing agency having jurisdiction for all sub codes may further provide for the establishment of a joint board of appeals.

(b) Agreement: Except as this section may add or substitute requirements, the procedures for the execution of any agreement pursuant to this section shall be governed by the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act (N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq.).

1. Upon the adoption of a resolution pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, a copy of such resolution, the contract, and any other pertinent information shall be forwarded to the department;
2. The term of any contract entered into pursuant to this section shall be four years.
3. The contract shall stipulate that the term of office of any construction or sub code official shall, except for good cause, be four years.
4. Such contract shall provide a mechanism for administration and enforcement within each of the contracting municipalities by one or more of the contracting municipalities, on an interim or emergency basis, should such agreement be invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction or prove otherwise unenforceable.
5. The contract shall additionally stipulate the information contained in N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.7(b) and 4.8(a).

**PERSONNEL GUIDELINES FOR
SHARED SERVICES, JOINT MEETINGS, & MUNICIPAL CONSOLIDATION**

In the past, Civil Service was considered a deterrent to local government consolidations because prior law (N.J.S.A. 11A:9-8) provided that when the functions of two or more political subdivisions were consolidated, and any one of the political subdivisions were operating under Title 11A at the time of the consolidation, then all other political subdivisions were deemed to have adopted Title 11A with regard to the combined functions.

However, as a result of the **Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act** (N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, *et seq.*), effective April 3, 2007, local governments are now able to realize cost savings, streamline service delivery, and improve effectiveness using revised Civil Service guidelines and practices designed to encourage such efforts and enable these sharing arrangements to occur as seamlessly as possible. The Act provides for three different scenarios – SHARED SERVICES, JOINT MEETING, and CONSOLIDATION – and provides the ability for involved local government entities to find the option that is the best fit for them.

SHARED SERVICES

One jurisdiction assumes responsibility for one or more functions of two or more other local units. There is no need to establish a new entity, and the “host” jurisdiction can absorb, or not, the employees of the other participating jurisdictions.

If the “host” entity is Civil Service	If the “host” entity is not Civil Service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Employees in the host agency will retain all Civil Service rights and protections. ❖ If all participating jurisdictions are Civil Service jurisdictions, employees will retain their current status and title. ❖ Employees from non-Civil Service jurisdictions with more than one year of service who transfer to the host agency will be automatically “grandfathered” into permanent service in the title that best reflects the duties they are performing. This appointment will be recorded retroactively to the date of their original appointment with the non-Civil Service jurisdiction. No open competitive testing is required for placement. ❖ Employees from non-Civil Service jurisdictions who transfer with less than one year of service will be recorded as provisional pending open competitive testing and selection procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Employees in the host agency will not be granted any Civil Service rights or protections. ❖ Employees from other jurisdictions who had prior Civil Service status will retain those Merit System rights related to disciplinary actions and the right to challenge the “good faith” of a lay-off. ❖ If a permanent employee from a Civil Service jurisdiction is laid off prior to transferring, he or she will retain all lay-off rights. If a permanent employee is laid off subsequent to the transition to a shared service arrangement, the employee will be subject to any employment contract or provisions that exist for the host jurisdiction. ❖ Law enforcement officers will also carry with them all seniority, status, and tenure rights.

OTHER SHARED SERVICES CONSIDERATIONS:

Permanent Civil Service employees who are laid off during or after the transition to a shared services arrangement will be placed on a special reemployment list for all Civil Service employers within Morris County, including County government.

Employees who are laid off from the host jurisdiction under the shared services agreement are entitled to receive a “terminal leave payment” of not less than one month of their regular base salary at the time of termination for each five-year period of past service with the host jurisdiction. Example: an employee with ten years of past service would receive at least two months of regular base salary as a terminal leave payment.

The Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) is authorized to provide technical advice and mediation services in order to facilitate the integration of separate collective bargaining agreements into a single agreement. PERC may also order binding arbitration in order to integrate collective bargaining agreements.

Prior to finalizing a shared services agreement that involves a Civil Service jurisdiction, an “employment reconciliation plan” must be filed with the Department of Personnel (DOP). This document must indicate whether or not the hosting jurisdiction is currently subject to Title 11A, Civil Service, and must also include a determination of the employees who will be transferred to the host jurisdiction, retained by the sending jurisdiction(s), or terminated from employment for reasons of economy or efficiency, subject to the provisions of any applicable collective bargaining agreements. DOP must review and respond to the “employment reconciliation plan” within 45 days or the plan is deemed approved. See Employment Reconciliation Plan for more details.

JOINT MEETING

Communities may jointly establish new entities which **may or may not** be under the purview of Title 11A, Civil Service. Where such an entity is comprised of Civil Service and non-Civil Service jurisdictions, the decision of whether to be part of the Civil Service system is made by the management committee of the new entity.

If the new entity is deemed to be Civil Service

- ❖ Employees with permanent Civil Service status will retain all Civil Service rights and protections.
- ❖ If all participating jurisdictions are Civil Service jurisdictions, the joint meeting will be a Civil Service jurisdiction and employees will retain their current status and title.

If the new entity is not Civil Service

- ❖ New employees hired in the entity will have no Civil Service rights or protections.
- ❖ Employees who had prior Civil Service status will retain those Merit System rights related to disciplinary actions and the right to challenge the “good faith” of a lay-off.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Employees from non-Civil Service jurisdictions with more than one year of service will be automatically “grandfathered” into permanent service in the title that best reflects the duties they are performing. This appointment will be recorded retroactively to the date of their original appointment with the non-Civil Service jurisdiction. No open competitive testing is required for placement. ❖ Employees from non-Civil Service jurisdictions with less than one year of service will be recorded as provisional pending open competitive testing and selection procedures. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ If a permanent employee from a Civil Service jurisdiction is laid off prior to transferring, he or she will retain all lay-off rights. If a permanent employee is laid off subsequent to the transition to a shared service arrangement, the employee will be subject to any employment contract or provisions that exist for the host jurisdiction. ❖ Law enforcement officers will also carry with them all seniority, status, and tenure rights. |
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OTHER JOINT MEETING CONSIDERATIONS:

Permanent Civil Service employees who are laid off during or after the formation of a joint meeting will be placed on a special reemployment list for all Civil Service employers within Morris County, including County government.

Employees who are laid off for reasons of economy or efficiency from a participating jurisdiction or from the joint meeting are entitled to receive a “terminal leave payment” of not less than one month of their regular base salary at the time of termination for each five-year period of past service with the host jurisdiction. Example: an employee with ten years of past service would receive at least two months of regular base salary as a terminal leave payment.

When a joint meeting merges bargaining units with current collective bargaining agreements, the terms and conditions of the existing collective bargaining agreements shall continue to apply until a new collective bargaining agreement is signed.

The Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) is authorized to provide technical advice and mediation services in order to facilitate the integration of separate collective bargaining agreements into a single agreement. PERC may also order binding arbitration in order to integrate collective bargaining agreements.

Prior to implementing a joint meeting that involves a Civil Service jurisdiction, an “employment reconciliation plan” must be filed with the Department of Personnel (DOP). This document must indicate the intended jurisdiction of DOP over the joint meeting (i.e., Civil Service or not), and must also include a determination of the employees who will be transferred to the joint meeting, retained by participating jurisdiction(s), or terminated from employment for reasons of economy or efficiency, subject to the provisions of any applicable collective bargaining agreements. DOP must review and respond to the “employment reconciliation plan” within 45 days or the plan is deemed approved. See Employment Reconciliation Plan for more details.

CONSOLIDATION

Two or more jurisdictions consolidate all of their functions into a single jurisdiction. If any of the participating jurisdictions are subject to Title 11A, Civil Service, the voters of the participating jurisdiction(s) decide if the new jurisdiction will be under the purview of Civil Service or not.

If the new jurisdiction opts to be Civil Service	If the new jurisdiction opts to be non-Civil Service
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Employees with permanent Civil Service status will retain all Civil Service rights and protections.❖ The titles and status of employees from non-Civil Service jurisdictions will be determined by DOP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Employees in the new jurisdiction will not be granted any Civil Service rights or protections.❖ Employees from other jurisdictions who had prior Civil Service status will not retain any Civil Service rights or protections.

OTHER CONSOLIDATION CONSIDERATIONS:

Once a consolidation has been approved, the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs will create a task force of State agencies and collective bargaining representatives to facilitate the consolidation and provide technical assistance.

The Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) is authorized to provide technical advice in order to facilitate the integration of separate collective bargaining agreements into consolidated agreements and to adjust the structure of collective bargaining units.

While not specifically required, prudent action by participating jurisdictions should include an initial determination of the employees who will be retained by the consolidated entity or terminated from employment for reasons of economy or efficiency.

EMPLOYMENT RECONCILIATION PLAN

In order to preempt personnel issues that can impede the progress of these efforts, Section 40A:65-11 of the **Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act** (P.L. 2007, Chapter 63) stipulates that shared services agreements or joint meetings involving one or more local units that have adopted Title 11A must include an "Employment Reconciliation Plan". Broadly speaking, this Plan addresses impacts to the affected workforce as a whole, as well as the needs and concerns of the individual employees involved. The Plan must include:

- a. The present composition and organization of the workforce responsible for carrying out the function(s) for which a shared service or joint meeting arrangement is sought.
- b. The intended composition and organization of the restructured local unit or joint meeting entity that will exist once a shared service or joint meeting initiative has been implemented.
- c. The specific personnel and other employment-related actions that will take place in course

of transitioning to the new arrangement.

EMPLOYMENT RECONCILIATION PLAN REQUIRED CONTENT:

- ❖ Clearly indicate the Civil Service status of the “host” local unit.
 - For local units entering into a shared services agreement, the Civil Service status of impacted employees will be determined by whether or not the “host” jurisdiction is subject to Title 11A, Civil Service.
 - In the case of a joint meeting involving both Civil Service and non-Civil Service units, greater flexibility is made possible by the **Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act** which allows for adoption of Title 11A to be done at the discretion of the participating local units.
- ❖ Clearly indicate any bargaining units by participating jurisdiction(s).
 - For a shared services agreement or a joint meeting, PERC is authorized to provide technical advice and mediation services in order to facilitate the integration of separate collective bargaining agreements into a single agreement.
- ❖ All local units that are involved in a shared services agreement or a joint meeting must provide DOP with a complete employee roster that includes the following information:
 - First and last name of the employee
 - Social security number
 - Employee ID number
 - Current title
 - Time in current title
 - Date of hire
- ❖ The employee roster data should be obtained from each local unit’s most recent payroll run and be provided to DOP in Microsoft Excel format wherever possible. Upon receipt of this information, DOP will work with local units that are subject to Title 11A, Civil Service, to reconcile the records of all impacted employees in order to smooth the transition to a new organizational structure.
- ❖ A table of organization (i.e., organization chart) that clearly demonstrates the **current** position of each impacted employee within his/her respective local unit. These tables, one per participating municipality, must account for all impacted employees: those transferred to the new local unit, retained by an existing local unit, or laid off for reasons of economy or efficiency from a participating jurisdiction.
- ❖ A table of organization (i.e., organization chart) that clearly depicts the **proposed** position of each impacted employee in the organizational structure that is to exist upon approval of the shared services or joint meeting agreement. This table must account for all employees that will be retained by or transferred to the joint meeting or recipient unit.
- ❖ An employee determination summary identifying those employees who in the course of the transition may be a) transferred to the providing local unit or joint meeting; b) retained by the contracting local unit; or c) terminated from employment subject to the provisions of any collective bargaining agreements within the participating local units.
- ❖ For those employees to be laid off for reasons of economy or efficiency, a lay-off plan

must be prepared according to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 11A:8-1 *et seq.* and must be provided to DOP along with the Employment Reconciliation Plan. If some or all of the workforce reductions will be achieved through lay-off alternatives such as attrition or terminal leave payments, that information must also be included.

COMMONLY SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- Animal Control
 - Shelter services
 - Animal warden services
- Code Enforcement & Inspections
 - Building
 - Electrical
 - Housing
 - Plumbing & sanitary
 - Zoning Officer
- Cooperative Purchasing
 - County co-op system
 - County contract extended prices
 - Municipal or municipal-school cooperative systems
 - Commodity resale agreements
 - Purchasing from state contracts
 - Energy aggregation contracts
- Information & Technology
 - Internet access
 - Network sharing
 - Network maintenance & support
 - Community technology lab
- Library Services
 - Joint libraries
 - Reference collection sharing
 - Research facilities
- Municipal Courts
 - Joint municipal court
 - Court personnel
 - Judge
 - Prosecutor
 - Public defender
 - Court administrator
 - Court facilities
 - Video arraignment
- Personnel and Staff Sharing
 - Tax collector
 - Assessor
 - Finance officer
 - Technology positions
 - Human resources staff

- Public Health
 - Health officer
 - Public health nurses
 - Clinics & immunizations
 - Health training/blood borne pathogen testing
 - Nutrition programs

- Public Safety
 - 911 and Reverse 911
 - Dispatching & communications
 - Police patrol services
 - Training facilities & services
 - Pistol range
 - Drug/alcohol/crime prevention
 - Crisis intervention/domestic violence response
 - Fire fighting services
 - Fire prevention activities
 - Investigation services
 - Prisoner transport

- Public Works
 - Vehicle maintenance
 - Maintenance facilities
 - Buildings and grounds maintenance
 - Street paving, repair, and sweeping
 - Street sweeping
 - Equipment sharing
 - Leaf pickup and disposal
 - Bulk waste & white goods pickup
 - Fuel dispensing facilities
 - Road striping
 - Shared fuel dispensing facilities
 - Sewer, drain and catch basin maintenance

- Recreation Services
 - Recreation programs & leagues
 - Facilities and playing fields
 - Swimming pool
 - Tennis courts
 - Recreation personnel
 - Maintenance efforts

- Trash and Solid Waste Collection,
 - Trash and solid waste collection
 - Recycling
 - Marketing & disposal of recyclables
 - Bulk waste pickup

GENERAL OUTLINE FOR CONDUCTING A SHARED SERVICE FEASIBILITY STUDY

- I. DESCRIBE The existing level of service currently being provided by each study participant
- II. DESCRIBE
 - A. The cost to each participant of providing the current service level.
 - B. The organization, staffing and methods of providing the current service levels.
 - C. If the local unit does not currently provide the service, describe the costs to that unit if it were to provide the service.
- III. DESCRIBE Options for modification or improvement of current individual service efforts, including the costs and benefits of implementing the changes.
- IV. DESCRIBE
 - A. Option(s) for the joint or interlocal provision of the service.
 - B. Which local unit would act as agent or lead agency for the other participants? How the interlocal program would be organized and administered, including a table of organization.
 - C. Employee relations issues (Civil Service, contractual matters, reassignment of employees, Early Retirement Incentives, etc.)
 - D. Monitoring and evaluation criteria. Procedures for service modification and dispute resolution.
- V. DESCRIBE
 - A. The cost of providing the joint service, including implementation or transition costs, as well as the first-year operating budget.
 - B. How the total cost would be allocated and paid between the lead agency and the participants. Address the disposition of current equipment or facilities used by participants to provide the service themselves.
- VI. DESCRIBE
 - A. The benefits resulting from the provision of the service on a joint or interlocal basis, i.e., decreased costs, increased levels of service, etc.
 - B. Steps and timeline for implementation and specific actions to be taken

SHARED SERVICES

Seizing the Opportunity

As an essential part of a broader mission, the Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) Local Assistance Bureau (LAB), in collaboration with the State's Shared Services Czars, provides shared services and consolidation assistance to help towns achieve much needed property tax savings. The Division is statutorily tasked with advising on and supporting consolidation efforts. We are thrilled to announce that we have already had so much interest in these programs that we are growing to meet the demand. Governor Murphy has authorized a \$10 million appropriation to support local units' shared services efforts, and there is additional funding available to support one-time costs incurred during government consolidation efforts.

We understand that pursuing change through shared services or consolidation requires courage and commitment. The Shared Services Czars and the Division of Local Government Services Local Assistance Unit (LAB) supports municipal governments that embrace these efforts. The Division's technical advisors provide support through each step of the process. Staff will help prepare your community for future shared services opportunities or identify opportunities in interested communities that are unsure how to proceed. Once projects are identified, staff will help your community develop a no-cost feasibility study and draft an agreement. Once the communities decide to proceed, advisors will be available to guide implementation. The LAB promotes a process that involves listening to and protecting all stakeholders, implementing best practices, and ensuring that your community achieves the best deal for your taxpayers.

If your community is confronting economic pressure, fiscal challenges, or operational deficiencies, or if it may be at a shared services crossroads, our team of professional advisors is here to assist. We can be contacted via email at sharedservices@nj.gov.