



HOUSE BILL 74: Study MPO/RPO Oversight

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	Transportation, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 28, 2015
Introduced by:	Rep. Floyd	Prepared by:	Wendy Graf Ray
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H74-CSSU-20		Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: *The Proposed Committee Substitute for House Bill 74 would establish a committee to study the organization, structure, and oversight of MPOs and RPOs, the role they play in transportation planning, and how they might be improved.*

CURRENT LAW: Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RPOs) work with the Department of Transportation in developing transportation plans.

Areas designated by the federal census as being urban in nature and having a population of 50,000 or more are required by federal law to have a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process in order to qualify for federal funds. This process is carried out in North Carolina by MPOs.

Although organized and tasked in a manner similar to MPOs, RPOs are grounded in state law and are intended to address and improve rural area transportation planning processes. RPOs assist the Department by carrying out the following duties: cooperating with the Department to develop comprehensive transportation plans, providing a forum for public participation in the transportation planning process, developing and prioritizing suggestions for projects that the organization believes should be included in the State Transportation Improvement Program, and providing transportation-related information to local governments and other interested parties.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for House Bill 74 would create the Study Committee on Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Rural Transportation Planning Organizations, to consist of five members of the House appointed by the speaker and five members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem. The Committee would be directed to study the organization, structure, and oversight of MPOs and RPOs, the role they play in transportation planning, and how they might be improved while maintaining compliance with federal law.

The Committee would report to the 2016 session of the 2015 General Assembly and would terminate upon the filing of its report or the convening of the session, whichever occurs first.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would be effective when it becomes law.

O. Walker Reagan
Director



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Research Division
(919) 733-2578