

RESOLUTION 2021-021

A RESOLUTION OF THE NASSAU COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; OPPOSING ELIMINATION OF STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION FOR REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS IN FLORIDA AS PROPOSED IN SENATE BILL 62 OR SIMILAR PROPOSED LEGISLATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council's seven county geographical area is comprised of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties and 25 municipalities contained therein, with over 1.75 million residents: and

WHEREAS, the Council is a multi-purpose regional governmental entity with policy responsibilities in the areas of affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, energy and climate change, agriculture, natural resources, community design, and regional transportation; and

WHEREAS, for more than five decades Regional Planning Councils have served the public as Florida's only multipurpose regional entities that coordinate intergovernmental solutions to multijurisdictional issues identified by their member local governments; and

WHEREAS, the 67 counties in the state are divided into 10 Regional Planning Councils which perform functions in Economic Development, Transportation, Emergency Preparedness, Regional Convening, and Resilience to the extent and as directed by their member counties, cities, and gubernatorial appointees; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Councils compete for and bring to Florida millions of dollars in federal funds for Economic Development, Transportation, and Environmental and Brownfields Cleanup that would otherwise go to other states; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Councils receive no regular general appropriation for operation from the State and, instead, are supported by Federal, State and private grant funds, local dues, local contracts, and State agency contracts for specific programs implemented on behalf of the State; and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Councils serve a critical role in hazardous material response coordination and training through the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) operated by each Council; and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Councils regularly assist state agencies in implementing their statutory duties and legislative directives, along with coordinating these duties and directives with local input, at no charge to the State; and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Councils partner with local governments and agencies secure grant funding, staff specialized projects and provide technical support and collaboration expertise; and

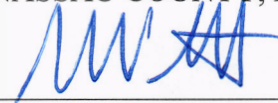
WHEREAS, proposed Senate Bill 62 will remove authorization and all references to Regional Planning Councils from the Florida Statutes, depriving the people of the State of the important work the Councils do and the Federal funds they bring into Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Nassau County, Florida, on this 11th day of February, 2021 as follows:

Section 1. The Legislature is urged not to pass Senate Bill 62 unless it is modified to no longer remove Regional Planning Councils from the Florida Statutes; and

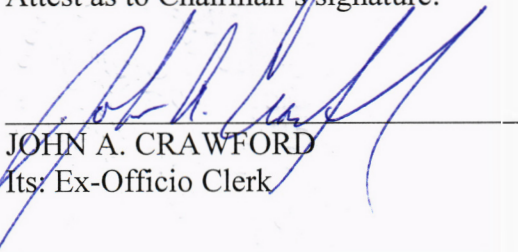
Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption hereof.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA



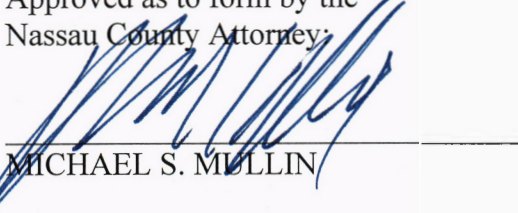
THOMAS R. FORD
Its: Chairman

Attest as to Chairman's signature:



JOHN A. CRAWFORD
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney:



MICHAEL S. MULLIN