



HOMECONNECTICUT

For Our Economy, Our Families, Our Future

a campaign of the Partnership for Strong Communities

Support S.B. 1026, An Act Concerning Training for Certain Planning and Zoning

The Proposal

Require planning & zoning commissioners complete a minimum of five (5) hours of training within one year of appointment or election. As in many nearby states, this training can be made available in person or online and may be completed in parts or at the commissioner's convenience.

By January 1, 2023, all newly seated commissioners should be required to meet the minimum standard of five (5) hours of training per year. At least two of these hours must relate to affordable housing.

As with other complex legal issues, proficiency in interpreting land use law requires continuing education. **We recommend that training should be an ongoing continuing education requirement to serve on local land use commissions in Connecticut.**

Why it is Critical

Land use commissions make important land use decisions that affect the function of their communities for many years. Unlike several nearby states, Connecticut does not offer a training curriculum, or require training, for planning and zoning commissioners. The state does already require training for local inland wetlands commissions.

To ensure commissioners are provided with the educational resources needed to make these important decisions, training requirements may be satisfied through existing training programs provided by organizations such as the CT Bar Foundation, Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association, UCONN's Center for Land Use Education and Research and other trainings that might be developed by the Department of Housing.



Municipal planning training at the Regional Plan Association's Leadership Institute for Thriving Communities.

What Nearby States are Doing:

Seven states currently require training of planning and zoning board members in some form.

New York

In New York, all planning and zoning board members are required to meet a mandatory minimum of four (4) hours of training annually.

Board members failing to meet the annual requirement are not eligible for reappointment.

New Jersey

In New Jersey, the Commissioner of Community Affairs develops and delivers a mandatory training in land use law and planning to all board members. The training can be no longer than five (5) hours, and must be completed within 18 months of membership in order to remain on the planning board.

Maryland

In Maryland, all members of planning boards must complete a training course within six (6) months of appointment. Local jurisdictions may develop the training or may use the state model developed by the Maryland Department of Planning. The training is accessible online and takes approximately six (6) hours to complete.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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