



HOMECONNECTICUT

For Our Economy, Our Families, Our Future

a campaign of the Partnership for Strong Communities

Mandate Training on Housing Issues for Local Planning & Zoning Commissions

The Proposal

Require planning & zoning commissioners meet a minimum standard of five (5) hours of training per year by 2023. Develop a state training curriculum for local planning & zoning commissioners to include education on a variety of housing types. As in many nearby states, this training can be made available in person or online, and may be completed in parts or as a whole at the commissioner's convenience.

Why it is Critical

Planning & Zoning 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 commissioners.

In order to ensure commissioners are provided with the educational resources needed to make important land use decisions, the state must provide a training curriculum for commissioners. By January 1, 2023, all new commissioners should be required to meet the minimum standard available through a state training curriculum of five (5) hours of training per year. Two of these hours must relate to multifamily housing, while one hour must relate to fair housing.

Topics May Include

- Best Practices for Planning Commissions
- Affordable Housing & Housing Alternatives
- Planning for Transit-Oriented Development
- Designing Downtowns and Complete Streets
- Equity and Inclusive Growth



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:

SEAN GHIO, POLICY DIRECTOR

SEAN@PSCHOUSING.ORG

PARTNERSHIP FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES

WWW.PSCHOUSING.ORG

LAST UPDATED: 1/13/21