



HOMECONNECTICUT
 For Our Economy, Our Families, Our Future
 a campaign of the Partnership for Strong Communities

Support House Bill 5303: Develop Training on Housing Issues for Local Planning & Zoning Commissions

What This Bill Does

This bill allows municipalities to require planning & zoning commissioners meet a minimum standard of four hours of training per year. **We recommend this bill be amended to require all members of planning and zoning commissions in Connecticut meet this minimum standard.**

Why it is Critical

Planning & Zoning commissions make important land use decisions that affect the function of their communities for many years. **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, we must develop and offer a training curriculum to commissioners. Municipalities should require all new commissioners meet the minimum standard available through a state training curriculum of four hours of training per year, two of which must relate to 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 Surrounding States are Doing:

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.

Rhode Island

The State of Rhode Island's Division of Statewide Planning offers land use resources and technical assistance to municipalities.

Additionally, planning resources are available through Grow Smart Rhode Island, a coalition of advocates that host trainings and workshops focused on sustainable and equitable growth.

Massachusetts

In Massachusetts, a collaboration of citizens, nonprofits, and government agencies offer land use officials training.