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

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.