

# STATE OF NEW YORK

6523

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

March 5, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. K. BROWN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Local Governments

AN ACT to amend the town law and the village law, in relation to requiring certain municipal positions take continuing legal education courses

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The town law is amended by adding a new section 51-a to  
2 read as follows:

3 § 51-a. Continuing legal education requirements for members of a town  
4 board. 1. Each member of a town board shall complete six credit hours of  
5 accredited continuing legal education courses in ethics within one year  
6 of such member's election to such town board. The six hours of accred-  
7 ited continuing legal education courses in ethics shall be completed in  
8 one hour increments.

9 2. Members of such town board shall complete six credit hours of  
10 accredited continuing legal education courses in ethics annually there-  
11 after. The six credit hours of accredited continuing legal education  
12 courses in ethics shall be completed in one hour increments.

13 § 2. The town law is amended by adding a new section 60-b to read as  
14 follows:

15 § 60-b. Continuing legal education requirements for members of a town  
16 board. 1. Each member of a town board shall complete six credit hours of  
17 accredited continuing legal education courses in ethics within one year  
18 of such member's election to such town board. The six hours of accred-  
19 ited continuing legal education courses in ethics shall be completed in  
20 one hour increments.

21 2. Members of such town board shall complete six credit hours of  
22 accredited continuing legal education courses in ethics annually there-  
23 after. The six credit hours of accredited continuing legal education  
24 courses in ethics shall be completed in one hour increments.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD10234-01-5

1 § 3. Subdivision 7-a of section 267 of the town law is amended by  
2 adding a new paragraph (a-1) to read as follows:

3 (a-1) (i) In addition to the training required pursuant to paragraph  
4 (a) of this subdivision, each member of the zoning board of appeals  
5 shall complete, at a minimum, six credit hours of accredited continuing  
6 legal education courses in ethics within one year of such member's  
7 appointment to the zoning board of appeals. The six hours of accredited  
8 continuing legal education courses in ethics shall be completed in one  
9 hour increments. Such training shall be approved by the town board and  
10 may include, but not be limited to, training provided by a municipality,  
11 regional or county planning office or commission, county planning feder-  
12 ation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other  
13 similar entity. Training may be provided in a variety of formats,  
14 including but not limited to, electronic media, video, distance learning  
15 and traditional classroom training.

16 (ii) Members of the zoning board of appeals shall complete six credit  
17 hours of accredited continuing legal education courses in ethics annual-  
18 ly thereafter. The six credit hours of accredited continuing legal  
19 education courses in ethics shall be completed in one hour increments,  
20 in the same format as provided in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

21 § 4. Subdivision 7-a of section 271 of the town law is amended by  
22 adding a new paragraph a-1 to read as follows:

23 a-1. (i) In addition to the training required pursuant to paragraph a  
24 of this subdivision, each member of the planning board shall complete,  
25 at a minimum, six credit hours of accredited continuing legal education  
26 courses in ethics within one year of such member's appointment to the  
27 planning board. The six hours of accredited continuing legal education  
28 courses in ethics shall be completed in one hour increments. Such train-  
29 ing shall be approved by the town board and may include, but not be  
30 limited to, training provided by a municipality, regional or county  
31 planning office or commission, county planning federation, state agency,  
32 statewide municipal association, college or other similar entity.  
33 Training may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not  
34 limited to, electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional  
35 classroom training.

36 (ii) Members of the planning board shall complete six credit hours of  
37 accredited continuing legal education courses in ethics annually there-  
38 after. The six credit hours of accredited continuing legal education  
39 courses in ethics shall be completed in one hour increments, in the same  
40 format as provided in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

41 § 5. Section 4-412 of the village law is amended by adding a new  
42 subdivision 4 to read as follows:

43 4. Continuing legal education requirements for members of a village  
44 board of trustees. a. Each member of a board of trustees shall complete  
45 six credit hours of accredited continuing legal education courses in  
46 ethics within one year of such member's election to the village board of  
47 trustees. The six hours of accredited continuing legal education courses  
48 in ethics shall be completed in one hour increments.

49 b. Members of such board of trustees shall complete six credit hours  
50 of accredited continuing legal education courses in ethics annually  
51 thereafter. The six credit hours of accredited continuing legal educa-  
52 tion courses in ethics shall be completed in one hour increments.

53 § 6. Subdivision 7-a of section 7-712 of the village law is amended by  
54 adding a new paragraph (a-1) to read as follows:

55 (a-1) (i) In addition to the training required pursuant to paragraph  
56 (a) of this subdivision, each member of the zoning board of appeals

1 shall complete, at a minimum, six credit hours of accredited continuing  
2 legal education courses in ethics within one year of such member's  
3 appointment to the zoning board of appeals. The six hours of accredited  
4 continuing legal education courses in ethics shall be completed in one  
5 hour increments. Such training shall be approved by the town board and  
6 may include, but not be limited to, training provided by a municipality,  
7 regional or county planning office or commission, county planning feder-  
8 ation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other  
9 similar entity. Training may be provided in a variety of formats,  
10 including but not limited to, electronic media, video, distance learning  
11 and traditional classroom training.

12 (ii) Members of the zoning board of appeals shall complete six credit  
13 hours of accredited continuing legal education courses in ethics annual-  
14 ly thereafter. The six credit hours of accredited continuing legal  
15 education courses in ethics shall be completed in one hour increments,  
16 in the same format as provided in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

17 § 7. Subdivision 7-a of section 7-718 of the village law is amended by  
18 adding a new paragraph a-1 to read as follows:

19 a-1. (i) In addition to the training required pursuant to paragraph a  
20 of this subdivision, each member of the planning board shall complete,  
21 at a minimum, six credit hours of accredited continuing legal education  
22 courses in ethics within one year of such member's appointment to the  
23 planning board. The six hours of accredited continuing legal education  
24 courses in ethics shall be completed in one hour increments. Such train-  
25 ing shall be approved by the town board and may include, but not be  
26 limited to, training provided by a municipality, regional or county  
27 planning office or commission, county planning federation, state agency,  
28 statewide municipal association, college or other similar entity.  
29 Training may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not  
30 limited to, electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional  
31 classroom training.

32 (ii) Members of the planning board shall complete six credit hours of  
33 accredited continuing legal education courses in ethics annually there-  
34 after. The six credit hours of accredited continuing legal education  
35 courses in ethics shall be completed in one hour increments, in the same  
36 format as provided in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

37 § 8. This act shall take effect immediately.