

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8410--A

Cal. No. 896

## IN SENATE

January 29, 2024

Introduced by Sen. MAYER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, the general city law, the town law and the village law, in relation to expanding training requirements for municipalities in relation to compliance with the open meetings law

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subdivision 2 of section 239-c of the  
2 general municipal law, as amended by chapter 662 of the laws of 2006, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (d) Training and attendance requirements. (i) Each member of a county  
5 planning board shall complete, at a minimum, [~~four~~] five hours of train-  
6 ing each year designed to enable such members to more effectively carry  
7 out their duties. Training received by a member in excess of [~~four~~] five  
8 hours in any one year may be carried over by the member into succeeding  
9 years in order to meet the requirements of this paragraph. Such training  
10 shall be approved by the county and may include, but not be limited to,  
11 training provided by a regional or county planning office or commission,  
12 county planning federation, state agency, statewide municipal associ-  
13 ation, college or other similar entity, provided that at least one hour  
14 of such training is provided by the committee on open government or  
15 another appropriate entity in relation to compliance with the open meet-  
16 ings law. Training may be provided in a variety of formats, including  
17 but not limited to, electronic media, video, distance learning and  
18 traditional classroom training.

19 (ii) To be eligible for reappointment to such board, such member shall  
20 have completed the training promoted by the county pursuant to this  
21 paragraph.

22 (iii) The training required by this paragraph may be waived or modi-  
23 fied by the county when, in the judgment of the governing board, it is

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

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1 in the best interest of the county to do so provided that such county  
2 shall provide public notice, including a justification, of their deci-  
3 sion to waive or modify training requirements.

4 (iv) No decision of a county planning board shall be voided or  
5 declared invalid because of a failure to comply with this paragraph.

6 § 2. Subdivision 7-a of section 27 of the general city law, as added  
7 by chapter 662 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

8 7-a. Training and attendance requirements. a. Each member of the plan-  
9 ning board of a city, except a city having a population of more than one  
10 million, shall complete, at a minimum, [~~four~~] five hours of training  
11 each year designed to enable such members to more effectively carry out  
12 their duties. Training received by a member in excess of [~~four~~] five  
13 hours in any one year may be carried over by the member into succeeding  
14 years in order to meet the requirements of this subdivision. Such train-  
15 ing shall be approved by the legislative body and may include, but not  
16 be limited to, training provided by a municipality, regional or county  
17 planning office or commission, county planning federation, state agency,  
18 statewide municipal association, college or other similar entity,  
19 provided that at least one hour of such training is provided by the  
20 committee on open government or another appropriate entity in relation  
21 to compliance with the open meetings law. Training may be provided in a  
22 variety of formats, including but not limited to, electronic media,  
23 video, distance learning and traditional classroom training.

24 b. To be eligible for reappointment to such board, such member shall  
25 have completed the training promoted by the city pursuant to this subdi-  
26 vision.

27 c. The training required by this subdivision may be waived or modified  
28 by resolution of the legislative body of the city when, in the judgment  
29 of such legislative body, it is in the best interest of the city to do  
30 so, provided that such resolution shall include a justification for the  
31 city's decision to waive or modify such training requirements.

32 d. No decision of a planning board shall be voided or declared invalid  
33 because of a failure to comply with this subdivision.

34 § 3. Subdivision 7-a of section 81 of the general city law, as added  
35 by chapter 662 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

36 7-a. Training and attendance requirements. (a) Each member of the  
37 board of appeals in a city, except a city having a population of more  
38 than one million, shall complete, at a minimum, [~~four~~] five hours of  
39 training each year designed to enable such members to more effectively  
40 carry out their duties. Training received by a member in excess of  
41 [~~four~~] five hours in any one year may be carried over by the member into  
42 succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this subdivision.  
43 Such training shall be approved by the legislative body and may include,  
44 but not be limited to, training provided by a municipality, regional or  
45 county planning office or commission, county planning federation, state  
46 agency, statewide municipal association, college or other similar  
47 entity, provided that at least one hour of such training is provided by  
48 the committee on open government or another appropriate entity in  
49 relation to compliance with the open meetings law. Training may be  
50 provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to, elec-  
51 tronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom train-  
52 ing.

53 (b) To be eligible for reappointment to such board, such member shall  
54 have completed the training promoted by the city pursuant to this subdi-  
55 vision.

1 (c) The training required by this subdivision may be waived or modi-  
2 fied by resolution of the legislative body of the city when, in the  
3 judgement of such legislative body, it is in the best interest of the  
4 city to do so, provided that such resolution shall include a justifica-  
5 tion for the city's decision to waive or modify such training require-  
6 ments.

7 (d) No decision of a board of appeals shall be voided or declared  
8 invalid because of a failure to comply with this subdivision.

9 § 4. Subdivision 7-a of section 267 of the town law, as added by chap-  
10 ter 662 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

11 7-a. Training and attendance requirements. (a) Each member of the  
12 board of appeals shall complete, at a minimum, [~~four~~] **five** hours of  
13 training each year designed to enable such members to more effectively  
14 carry out their duties. Training received by a member in excess of  
15 [~~four~~] **five** hours in any one year may be carried over by the member into  
16 succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this subdivision.  
17 Such training shall be approved by the town board and may include, but  
18 not be limited to, training provided by a municipality, regional or  
19 county planning office or commission, county planning federation, state  
20 agency, statewide municipal association, college or other similar  
21 entity, provided that at least one hour of such training is provided by  
22 the committee on open government or another appropriate entity in  
23 relation to compliance with the open meetings law. Training may be  
24 provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to, elec-  
25 tronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom train-  
26 ing.

27 (b) To be eligible for reappointment to such board, such member shall  
28 have completed the training promoted by the town pursuant to this subdi-  
29 vision.

30 (c) The training required by this subdivision may be waived or modi-  
31 fied by resolution of the town board when, in the judgment of the town  
32 board, it is in the best interest of the town to do so, provided that  
33 such resolution shall include a justification for the town's decision to  
34 waive or modify such training requirements.

35 (d) No decision of a zoning board of appeals shall be voided or  
36 declared invalid because of a failure to comply with this subdivision.

37 § 5. Subdivision 7-a of section 271 of the town law, as added by chap-  
38 ter 662 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

39 7-a. Training and attendance requirements. a. Each member of the plan-  
40 ning board shall complete, at a minimum, [~~four~~] **five** hours of training  
41 each year designed to enable such members to more effectively carry out  
42 their duties. Training received by a member in excess of [~~four~~] **five**  
43 hours in any one year may be carried over by the member into succeeding  
44 years in order to meet the requirements of this subdivision. Such train-  
45 ing shall be approved by the town board and may include, but not be  
46 limited to, training provided by a municipality, regional or county  
47 planning office or commission, county planning federation, state agency,  
48 statewide municipal association, college or other similar entity,  
49 provided that at least one hour of such training is provided by the  
50 committee on open government or another appropriate entity in relation  
51 to compliance with the open meetings law. Training may be provided in a  
52 variety of formats, including but not limited to, electronic media,  
53 video, distance learning and traditional classroom training.

54 b. To be eligible for reappointment to such board, such member shall  
55 have completed the training promoted by the town pursuant to this subdi-  
56 vision.

1 c. The training required by this subdivision may be waived or modified  
2 by resolution of the town board when, in the judgment of the town board,  
3 it is in the best interest of the town to do so, provided that such  
4 resolution shall include a justification for the town's decision to  
5 waive or modify such training requirements.

6 d. No decision of a planning board shall be voided or declared invalid  
7 because of a failure to comply with this subdivision.

8 § 6. Subdivision 7-a of section 7-712 of the village law, as added by  
9 chapter 662 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

10 7-a. Training and attendance requirements. (a) Each member of the  
11 board of appeals shall complete, at a minimum, [~~four~~] five hours of  
12 training each year designed to enable such members to more effectively  
13 carry out their duties. Training received by a member in excess of  
14 [~~four~~] five hours in any one year may be carried over by the member into  
15 succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this subdivision.  
16 Such training shall be approved by the board of trustees and may  
17 include, but not be limited to, training provided by a municipality,  
18 regional or county planning office or commission, county planning feder-  
19 ation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other  
20 similar entity, provided that at least one hour of such training is  
21 provided by the committee on open government or another appropriate  
22 entity in relation to compliance with the open meetings law. Training  
23 may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to,  
24 electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom  
25 training.

26 (b) To be eligible for reappointment to such board, such member shall  
27 have completed the training promoted by the village pursuant to this  
28 subdivision.

29 (c) The training required by this subdivision may be waived or modi-  
30 fied by resolution of the board of trustees when, in the judgment of the  
31 board of trustees, it is in the best interest of the village to do so,  
32 provided that such resolution shall include a justification for the  
33 village's decision to waive or modify such training requirements.

34 (d) No decision of a board of appeals shall be voided or declared  
35 invalid because of a failure to comply with this subdivision.

36 § 7. Subdivision 7-a of section 7-718 of the village law, as added by  
37 chapter 662 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

38 7-a. Training and attendance requirements. a. Each member of the plan-  
39 ning board shall complete, at a minimum, [~~four~~] five hours of training  
40 each year designed to enable such members to more effectively carry out  
41 their duties. Training received by a member in excess of [~~four~~] five  
42 hours in any one year may be carried over by the member into succeeding  
43 years in order to meet the requirements of this subdivision. Such train-  
44 ing shall be approved by the board of trustees and may include, but not  
45 be limited to, training provided by a municipality, regional or county  
46 planning office or commission, county planning federation, state agency,  
47 statewide municipal association, college or other similar entity,  
48 provided that at least one hour of such training is provided by the  
49 committee on open government or another appropriate entity in relation  
50 to compliance with the open meetings law. Training may be provided in a  
51 variety of formats, including but not limited to, electronic media,  
52 video, distance learning and traditional classroom training.

53 b. To be eligible for reappointment to such board, such member shall  
54 have completed the training promoted by the village pursuant to this  
55 subdivision.

1 c. The training required by this subdivision may be waived or modified  
2 by resolution of the board of trustees when, in the judgment of the  
3 board of trustees, it is in the best interest of the village to do so,  
4 provided that such resolution shall include a justification for the  
5 village's decision to waive or modify such training requirements.

6 d. No decision of a planning board shall be voided or declared invalid  
7 because of a failure to comply with this subdivision.

8 § 8. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-  
9 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.