

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8931

## IN SENATE

April 1, 2024

Introduced by Sen. HINCHEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, the general city law, the town law, and the village law, in relation to requiring certain municipal planning boards and zoning boards of appeals to receive environmentally conscious planning training

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

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

4 (i) Each member of a county planning board shall complete, at a mini-  
5 mum, [~~four~~] five hours of training each year designed to enable such  
6 members to more effectively carry out their duties. Training received by  
7 a member in excess of [~~four~~] five hours in any one year, except for  
8 environmentally conscious planning training, may be carried over by the  
9 member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this  
10 paragraph. Such training shall be approved by the county and may  
11 include, but not be limited to, training provided by a regional or coun-  
12 ty planning office or commission, county planning federation, state  
13 agency, statewide municipal association, college or other similar enti-  
14 ty. Training shall include at least one hour related to environmentally  
15 conscious planning, including, but not to be limited to, training to  
16 meet the goals of and compliance with the climate leadership and commu-  
17 nity protection act, including any grant and funding opportunities for  
18 counties, farmland and natural resource conservation, climate justice,  
19 environmentally conscious site design, building material techniques and  
20 water mitigation and energy systems best practices. Training may be  
21 provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to, elec-  
22 tronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom train-  
23 ing.

24 § 2. Paragraph a of subdivision 7-a of section 27 of the general city  
25 law, as added by chapter 662 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as  
26 follows:

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

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1 a. Each member of the planning board of a city, except a city having a  
2 population of more than one million, shall complete, at a minimum,  
3 [~~four~~] five hours of training each year designed to enable such members  
4 to more effectively carry out their duties. Training received by a  
5 member in excess of [~~four~~] five hours in any one year, except for envi-  
6 ronmentally conscious planning training, may be carried over by the  
7 member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this  
8 subdivision. Such training shall be approved by the legislative body and  
9 may include, but not be limited to, training provided by a municipality,  
10 regional or county planning office or commission, county planning feder-  
11 ation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other  
12 similar entity. Training shall include at least one hour related to  
13 environmentally conscious planning, including, but not to be limited to,  
14 training to meet the goals of and compliance with the climate leadership  
15 and community protection act, including any grant and funding opportu-  
16 nities for counties, farmland and natural resource conservation, climate  
17 justice, environmentally conscious site design, building material tech-  
18 niques and water mitigation and energy systems best practices. Training  
19 may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to,  
20 electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom  
21 training.

22 § 3. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 7-a of section 81 of the general  
23 city law, as added by chapter 662 of the laws of 2006, is amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 (a) Each member of the board of appeals in a city, except a city  
26 having a population of more than one million, shall complete, at a mini-  
27 mum, [~~four~~] five hours of training each year designed to enable such  
28 members to more effectively carry out their duties. Training received by  
29 a member in excess of [~~four~~] five hours in any one year, except for  
30 environmentally conscious planning training, may be carried over by the  
31 member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this  
32 subdivision. Such training shall be approved by the legislative body and  
33 may include, but not be limited to, training provided by a municipality,  
34 regional or county planning office or commission, county planning feder-  
35 ation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other  
36 similar entity. Training shall include at least one hour related to  
37 environmentally conscious planning, including, but not to be limited to,  
38 training to meet the goals of and compliance with the climate leadership  
39 and community protection act, including any grant and funding opportu-  
40 nities for counties, farmland and natural resource conservation, climate  
41 justice, environmentally conscious site design, building material tech-  
42 niques and water mitigation and energy systems best practices. Training  
43 may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to,  
44 electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom  
45 training.

46 § 4. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 7-a of section 267 of the town law,  
47 as added by chapter 662 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as  
48 follows:

49 (a) Each member of the board of appeals shall complete, at a minimum,  
50 [~~four~~] five hours of training each year designed to enable such members  
51 to more effectively carry out their duties. Training received by a  
52 member in excess of [~~four~~] five hours in any one year, except for envi-  
53 ronmentally conscious planning training, may be carried over by the  
54 member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this  
55 subdivision. Such training shall be approved by the town board and may  
56 include, but not be limited to, training provided by a municipality,

1 regional or county planning office or commission, county planning feder-  
2 ation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other  
3 similar entity. Training shall include at least one hour related to  
4 environmentally conscious planning, including, but not to be limited to,  
5 training to meet the goals of and compliance with the climate leadership  
6 and community protection act, including any grant and funding opportu-  
7 nities for counties, farmland and natural resource conservation, climate  
8 justice, environmentally conscious site design, building material tech-  
9 niques and water mitigation and energy systems best practices. Training  
10 may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to,  
11 electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom  
12 training.

13 § 5. Paragraph a of subdivision 7-a of section 271 of the town law,  
14 as added by chapter 662 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as  
15 follows:

16 a. Each member of the planning board shall complete, at a minimum,  
17 [~~four~~] five hours of training each year designed to enable such members  
18 to more effectively carry out their duties. Training received by a  
19 member in excess of [~~four~~] five hours in any one year, except for envi-  
20 ronmentally conscious planning training, may be carried over by the  
21 member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this  
22 subdivision. Such training shall be approved by the town board and may  
23 include, but not be limited to, training provided by a municipality,  
24 regional or county planning office or commission, county planning feder-  
25 ation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other  
26 similar entity. Training shall include at least one hour related to  
27 environmentally conscious planning, including, but not to be limited to,  
28 training to meet the goals of and compliance with the climate leadership  
29 and community protection act, including any grant and funding opportu-  
30 nities for counties, farmland and natural resource conservation, climate  
31 justice, environmentally conscious site design, building material tech-  
32 niques and water mitigation and energy systems best practices. Training  
33 may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to,  
34 electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom  
35 training.

36 § 6. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 7-a of section 7-712 of the village  
37 law, as added by chapter 662 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as  
38 follows:

39 (a) Each member of the board of appeals shall complete, at a minimum,  
40 [~~four~~] five hours of training each year designed to enable such members  
41 to more effectively carry out their duties. Training received by a  
42 member in excess of [~~four~~] five hours in any one year, except for envi-  
43 ronmentally conscious planning training, may be carried over by the  
44 member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this  
45 subdivision. Such training shall be approved by the board of trustees  
46 and may include, but not be limited to, training provided by a munici-  
47 pality, regional or county planning office or commission, county plan-  
48 ning federation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college  
49 or other similar entity. Training shall include at least one hour  
50 related to environmentally conscious planning, including, but not to be  
51 limited to, training to meet the goals of and compliance with the  
52 climate leadership and community protection act, including any grant and  
53 funding opportunities for counties, farmland and natural resource  
54 conservation, climate justice, environmentally conscious site design,  
55 building material techniques and water mitigation and energy systems  
56 best practices. Training may be provided in a variety of formats,

1 including but not limited to, electronic media, video, distance learning  
2 and traditional classroom training.

3 § 7. Paragraph a of subdivision 7-a of section 7-718 of the village  
4 law, as added by chapter 662 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as  
5 follows:

6 a. Each member of the planning board shall complete, at a minimum,  
7 [~~four~~ five hours of training each year designed to enable such members  
8 to more effectively carry out their duties. Training received by a  
9 member in excess of [~~four~~ five hours in any one year, except for envi-  
10 ronmentally conscious planning training, may be carried over by the  
11 member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this  
12 subdivision. Such training shall be approved by the board of trustees  
13 and may include, but not be limited to, training provided by a munici-  
14 pality, regional or county planning office or commission, county plan-  
15 ning federation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college  
16 or other similar entity. Training shall include at least one hour  
17 related to environmentally conscious planning, including, but not to be  
18 limited to, training to meet the goals of and compliance with the  
19 climate leadership and community protection act, including any grant and  
20 funding opportunities for counties, farmland and natural resource  
21 conservation, climate justice, environmentally conscious site design,  
22 building material techniques and water mitigation and energy systems  
23 best practices. Training may be provided in a variety of formats,  
24 including but not limited to, electronic media, video, distance learning  
25 and traditional classroom training.

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