STATE OF NEW YORK

600

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

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:

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

(i) Each member of a county planning board shall complete, at a minimum, [~~four~~] **five** hours of training each year designed to enable such members to more effectively carry out their duties. Training received by a member in excess of [~~four~~] **five** hours in any one year**, except for environmentally conscious planning training,** may be carried over by the member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this paragraph. Such training shall be approved by the county and may include, but not be limited to, training provided by a regional or county planning office or commission, county planning federation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other similar entity. **Training shall include at least one hour related to environmentally conscious planning, including, but not to be limited to, training to meet the goals of and compliance with the climate leadership and community protection act, including any grant and funding opportunities for counties, farmland and natural resource conservation, climate justice, environmentally conscious site design, building material techniques and water mitigation and energy systems best practices.** Training may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to, elec-

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

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tronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom training.

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

a. Each member of the planning board of a city, except a city having a population of more than one million, shall complete, at a minimum, [~~four~~] five hours of training each year designed to enable such members to more effectively carry out their duties. Training received by a member in excess of [~~four~~] five hours in any one year, except for environmentally conscious planning training, may be carried over by the member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this subdivision. Such training shall be approved by the legislative body and may include, but not be limited to, training provided by a municipality, regional or county planning office or commission, county planning federation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other similar entity. Training shall include at least one hour related to environmentally conscious planning, including, but not to be limited to, training to meet the goals of and compliance with the climate leadership and community protection act, including any grant and funding opportunities for counties, farmland and natural resource conservation, climate justice, environmentally conscious site design, building material techniques and water mitigation and energy systems best practices. Training may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to, electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom training.

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

(a) Each member of the board of appeals in a city, except a city having a population of more than one million, shall complete, at a minimum, [~~four~~] five hours of training each year designed to enable such members to more effectively carry out their duties. Training received by a member in excess of [~~four~~] five hours in any one year, except for environmentally conscious planning training, may be carried over by the member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this subdivision. Such training shall be approved by the legislative body and may include, but not be limited to, training provided by a municipality, regional or county planning office or commission, county planning federation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other similar entity. Training shall include at least one hour related to environmentally conscious planning, including, but not to be limited to, training to meet the goals of and compliance with the climate leadership and community protection act, including any grant and funding opportunities for counties, farmland and natural resource conservation, climate justice, environmentally conscious site design, building material techniques and water mitigation and energy systems best practices. Training may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to, electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom training.

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

(a) Each member of the board of appeals shall complete, at a minimum, [~~four~~] five hours of training each year designed to enable such members to more effectively carry out their duties. Training received by a

member in excess of [~~four~~] five hours in any one year, except for environmentally conscious planning training, may be carried over by the member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this subdivision. Such training shall be approved by the town board and may include, but not be limited to, training provided by a municipality, regional or county planning office or commission, county planning federation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other similar entity. Training shall include at least one hour related to environmentally conscious planning, including, but not to be limited to, training to meet the goals of and compliance with the climate leadership and community protection act, including any grant and funding opportunities for counties, farmland and natural resource conservation, climate justice, environmentally conscious site design, building material techniques and water mitigation and energy systems best practices. Training may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to, electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom training.

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

a. Each member of the planning board shall complete, at a minimum, [~~four~~] five hours of training each year designed to enable such members to more effectively carry out their duties. Training received by a member in excess of [~~four~~] five hours in any one year, except for environmentally conscious planning training, may be carried over by the member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this subdivision. Such training shall be approved by the town board and may include, but not be limited to, training provided by a municipality, regional or county planning office or commission, county planning federation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other similar entity. Training shall include at least one hour related to environmentally conscious planning, including, but not to be limited to, training to meet the goals of and compliance with the climate leadership and community protection act, including any grant and funding opportunities for counties, farmland and natural resource conservation, climate justice, environmentally conscious site design, building material techniques and water mitigation and energy systems best practices. Training may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to, electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom training.

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

(a) Each member of the board of appeals shall complete, at a minimum, [~~four~~] five hours of training each year designed to enable such members to more effectively carry out their duties. Training received by a member in excess of [~~four~~] five hours in any one year, except for environmentally conscious planning training, may be carried over by the member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this subdivision. Such training shall be approved by the board of trustees and may include, but not be limited to, training provided by a municipality, regional or county planning office or commission, county planning federation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other similar entity. Training shall include at least one hour related to environmentally conscious planning, including, but not to be limited to, training to meet the goals of and compliance with the

climate leadership and community protection act, including any grant and funding opportunities for counties, farmland and natural resource conservation, climate justice, environmentally conscious site design, building material techniques and water mitigation and energy systems best practices. Training may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to, electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom training.

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

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

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