

# 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:

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-

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

LBD02018-01-5

1 tronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom train-  
2 ing.

3 § 2. Paragraph a of subdivision 7-a of section 27 of the general city  
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 of a city, except a city having a  
7 population of more than one million, shall complete, at a minimum,  
8 [~~four~~] five hours of training each year designed to enable such members  
9 to more effectively carry out their duties. Training received by a  
10 member in excess of [~~four~~] five hours in any one year, except for envi-  
11 ronmentally conscious planning training, may be carried over by the  
12 member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this  
13 subdivision. Such training shall be approved by the legislative body and  
14 may include, but not be limited to, training provided by a municipality,  
15 regional or county planning office or commission, county planning feder-  
16 ation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other  
17 similar entity. Training shall include at least one hour related to  
18 environmentally conscious planning, including, but not to be limited to,  
19 training to meet the goals of and compliance with the climate leadership  
20 and community protection act, including any grant and funding opportu-  
21 nities for counties, farmland and natural resource conservation, climate  
22 justice, environmentally conscious site design, building material tech-  
23 niques and water mitigation and energy systems best practices. Training  
24 may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to,  
25 electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom  
26 training.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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