



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 561

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1026

Senate, April 21, 2021

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through SEN. CASSANO of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING FOR CERTAIN PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIALS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2021*) (a) On and after January 1,
2 2023, each member of a municipal planning commission, zoning
3 commission, combined planning and zoning commission and zoning
4 board of appeals shall, within one year of election or appointment to
5 such commission or board, complete not less than five hours of training
6 designed to assist such member in the effective performance of such
7 member's duties. Not less than two hours of such training shall include
8 education on alternative or affordable housing.

9 (b) Training required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall
10 be (1) provided through the Department of Housing or the Land Use
11 Academy at the Center for Land Use Education and Research at The
12 University of Connecticut, or (2) certified by the Connecticut Chapter of
13 the American Planning Association, the planning and zoning section of

14 the Connecticut Bar Association or a similar professional land use
 15 association. Training may be conducted in a variety of formats,
 16 including, but not limited to, electronic media, a video or distance
 17 learning program or in a traditional classroom setting.

18 (c) Not later than March 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, each
 19 planning commission, zoning commission, combined planning and
 20 zoning commission and zoning board of appeals shall submit a
 21 statement to the legislative body of the municipality for such
 22 commission or board affirming compliance with the training
 23 requirement established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section by
 24 each member of such commission or board required to complete such
 25 training in the calendar year ending the preceding December thirty-first,
 26 except that any planning commission may instead include such
 27 statement in the annual report required pursuant to subsection (a) of
 28 section 8-19 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2021	New section

PD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes five hours of training requirements for local officials on zoning commissions, planning commissions, and planning and zoning commissions. This has no fiscal impact as it is anticipated that this training can be provided free of charge.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1026*****AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING FOR CERTAIN PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIALS.*****SUMMARY**

Beginning January 1, 2023, this bill requires each member of a local planning commission, zoning commission, planning and zoning commission, or zoning board of appeals, to complete at least five hours of training within one year after being elected or appointed to the board or commission. The training must (1) be designed to help the member effectively perform his or her duties and (2) include at least two hours of education on alternative or affordable housing.

Under the bill, the training may be conducted in various formats, including electronic media, a video or distance learning program, or in a traditional classroom setting. The training must be:

1. provided through the housing department or the Land Use Academy at UConn's Center for Land Use Education and Research, or
2. certified by the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association, the Connecticut Bar Association's planning and zoning section, or a similar professional land use association.

The bill requires each board or commission, starting by March 1, 2024, to annually submit to its municipal legislative body a statement affirming its members' compliance with the bill's training requirement. The bill allows planning commissions to instead provide the statement in their annual report to the legislative body.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 9 (03/31/2021)