



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6809

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT CONCERNING FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR CERTAIN
STREAMSIDE BUFFERS AND TRAINING FOR INLAND WETLAND
COMMISSION MEMBERS.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any
2 provision of the general statutes, the Department of Energy and
3 Environmental Protection may utilize funds available for stormwater
4 infrastructure for the purpose of acquiring conservation easements
5 located along streams and rivers in the state provided any such
6 conservation easement requires the property owner to maintain a buffer
7 along such stream or river in a vegetated condition. The Commissioner
8 of Energy and Environmental Protection may determine the percentage
9 of such funds to be utilized for the purposes described in this section.
10 For purposes of this section, "vegetated condition" means the retention
11 of native trees, shrubs and herbaceous cover in lieu of lawn.

12 Sec. 2. Subsections (l) and (m) of section 22a-39 of the general statutes
13 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
14 *October 1, 2023*):

15 (l) Develop a comprehensive training program for inland wetlands
16 agency members. Not later than June 1, 2024, the commissioner shall
17 update such comprehensive training program to include all statutory

18 changes applicable to such inland wetland agencies and any common
19 law developments applicable to the considerations and authority of
20 such agencies. The commissioner shall concomitantly submit a copy of
21 such updated comprehensive training program to the joint standing
22 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
23 relating to the environment;

24 (m) Adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter
25 54 establishing reporting requirements for inland wetlands agencies,
26 which shall include provisions for reports to the commissioner on
27 permits, orders and other actions of such agencies and development of
28 a form for such reports. Such reports shall include, but not be limited to,
29 a statement from each inland wetlands agency that confirms whether
30 each member of such agency completed the training required pursuant
31 to section 22a-42, as amended by this act; and

32 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 22a-42 of the general statutes is
33 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
34 *1, 2023*):

35 (d) [At least one] Each member of the inland wetlands agency [or]
36 and staff of the agency shall be a person who has completed the
37 comprehensive training program developed by the commissioner
38 pursuant to section 22a-39, as amended by this act. The commissioner
39 shall make such training program available online. Any existing
40 member of the inland wetlands agency and staff of the agency shall
41 complete such training program not later than June 1, 2025, and any
42 member of such agency and staff of the agency who is appointed or
43 hired, as applicable, after the effective date of this section shall complete
44 such comprehensive training program not later than one year after such
45 appointment or hiring, as applicable. Each member of the inland
46 wetlands agency shall complete such comprehensive training program
47 not less than every five years thereafter. [Failure to have a member of
48 the agency or staff with training shall not affect the validity of any action
49 of the agency.] The commissioner shall annually make such program
50 available to one person from each town without cost to that person or

51 the town. Each inland wetlands agency shall hold a meeting [at least]
 52 not less than once annually at which information [is] shall be presented
 53 to the members of the agency [which] that summarizes the provisions
 54 of the training program. The commissioner shall develop such
 55 information in consultation with interested persons affected by the
 56 regulation of inland wetlands and shall provide for distribution of
 57 online video presentations and related written materials [which] that
 58 convey such information to inland wetlands agencies. In addition to
 59 such materials, the commissioner, in consultation with such persons,
 60 shall prepare materials [which] that provide guidance to municipalities
 61 in carrying out the provisions of subsection (f) of section 22a-42a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	22a-39(l) and (m)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	22a-42(d)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(m), "confirms that" was changed to "confirms whether" for accuracy.

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*