



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5170

February Session, 2024



**AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING FOR MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES
OF INLAND WETLANDS AGENCIES.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 22a-42 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2024*):

4 (d) [At least one member of the inland wetlands agency or staff of the
5 agency shall be a person who has completed] (1) On and after January
6 1, 2025, each member of and staff person employed by an inland
7 wetlands agency shall complete the comprehensive training program
8 developed by the commissioner pursuant to section 22a-39. [Failure to
9 have a member of the agency or staff with training shall not affect the
10 validity of any action of the agency.]

11 (2) Any such member or staff person serving on or employed by any
12 such agency as of January 1, 2025, shall complete such training program
13 (A) by January 1, 2026, and (B) once every four years thereafter, except
14 that any such member may complete such subsequent training program
15 once every four years thereafter or once every term for which such
16 member is elected or appointed, if such term is longer than four years.

17 (3) Any such member or staff person not serving on or employed by

18 any such agency as of January 1, 2025, shall complete such training
19 program (A) not later than one year after such member's election or
20 appointment or such staff person's hiring, and (B) once every four years
21 thereafter, except that any such member may complete such subsequent
22 training program once every four years thereafter or once every term for
23 which such member is elected or appointed, if such term is longer than
24 four years.

25 (4) The commissioner shall [annually] make such training program
26 available [to one person from each town without cost to that person or
27 the town. Each inland wetlands agency shall hold a meeting at least once
28 annually at which information is presented to the members of the
29 agency which summarizes the provisions of the training program] on
30 the Internet web site of the Department of Energy and Environmental
31 Protection to members of and staff employed by inland wetlands
32 agencies. The commissioner shall develop such [information] training
33 program in consultation with interested persons affected by the
34 regulation of inland wetlands, [and shall provide for distribution of
35 video presentations and related written materials which convey such
36 information to inland wetlands agencies.] In addition to [such materials]
37 developing such training program, the commissioner, in consultation
38 with such interested persons, shall prepare materials [which] that
39 provide guidance to municipalities in carrying out the provisions of
40 subsection (f) of section 22a-42a.

41 (5) Not later than March 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, each inland
42 wetlands agency shall submit a statement to the legislative body or
43 board of selectmen of the municipality in which such agency sits,
44 affirming compliance with the training requirement established
45 pursuant to this section by each member of and staff person employed
46 by such agency who was required to complete such training in the
47 calendar year ending the preceding December thirty-first.

48 (6) The failure of any member or staff person to complete such
49 training shall not affect the validity of any action of an inland wetlands
50 agency.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	22a-42(d)

PD *Joint Favorable Subst.*