
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5170

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

SUMMARY

This bill requires all inland wetlands agency members and employees to complete the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) inland wetlands agency comprehensive training program. Under current law, just one member or staff person from each agency must complete the training and each agency must annually hold a meeting at which the information is summarized for its members.

The bill requires members and employees serving an agency on January 1, 2025, to complete their initial training within one year from that date. Members and employees joining after that date must complete the training within one year after their appointment, election, or hire. All members and employees must retrain every four years or once per term (for elected or appointed members), whichever is less frequent.

Under the bill, DEEP must make the training program available on its website for agency members and employees. Current law requires it to distribute informational videos and written materials to the agencies.

The bill additionally creates an annual reporting requirement for the agencies, beginning by March 1, 2026, to submit a statement to the municipality's legislative body or board of selectmen affirming that the individuals who had to complete the training during the prior year did so. It also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sHB 5218, reported favorably by the Environment Committee, similarly requires all agency members and employees to take the training, but it applies a five-year renewal period and exempts attorneys with inland wetlands experience.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/01/2024)