

SENATE, No. 680

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Allows planning and zoning board members to satisfy training requirements on Internet.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning the training of planning and zoning board
2 members and amending P.L.2005, c.133.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2005, c.133 (C.40:55D-23.3) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. The Commissioner of Community Affairs shall cause to be
10 prepared and offered a basic course in land use law and planning
11 within six months from the effective date of P.L.2005, c.133
12 (C.40:55D-23.3 et al.) for current and prospective members and
13 alternate members of local planning boards pursuant to section 14
14 of P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-23) and section 13 of P.L.1979, c.216
15 (C.40:55D-23.1), zoning boards of adjustment pursuant to section
16 56 of P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-69) and combined boards as
17 authorized under law. The basic course to be prepared and offered
18 pursuant to this section shall consist of no more than five hours of
19 scheduled instruction and shall be structured so that a member may
20 satisfy this requirement within one calendar day. The commissioner
21 shall ensure that the course can be delivered in both online and in-
22 person formats within one year of the effective date of P.L. , c.
23 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The commissioner
24 shall work in conjunction with the New Jersey Planning Officials in
25 establishing standards for curriculum and administration of the
26 course of study.

27 b. On or after the first date on which a course in land use law
28 and planning is offered, except as otherwise provided in section 3 of
29 P.L.2005, c.133 (C.40:55D-23.4), a person shall not be seated as a
30 first-term member or alternate member of a local planning board
31 pursuant to section 14 of P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-23) or section
32 13 of P.L.1979, c.216 (C.40:55D-23.1), a zoning board of
33 adjustment pursuant to section 56 of P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-69)
34 or a combined board as authorized under law, unless the person
35 agrees to take the basic course required to be offered under
36 subsection a. of this section, which the person shall successfully
37 complete within 18 months of assuming board membership in order
38 to retain board membership.

39 c. Except as otherwise provided in section 3 of P.L.2005, c.133
40 (C.40:55D-23.4), any person who is serving as a member or
41 alternate member of a planning board or zoning board of adjustment
42 or combined board as authorized under law on the first date on
43 which a course in land use law and planning is offered shall be
44 required to complete that course within 18 months of the date upon

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 which the course is first offered in order to retain membership on
2 that board.
3 d. A hearing or proceeding held, or decision or
4 recommendation made, by a planning board or zoning board of
5 adjustment shall not be invalidated if a member has participated in
6 the hearing or proceeding or in the decision making or
7 recommendation and that member is subsequently found not to have
8 completed the basic course in land use law and planning required
9 pursuant to P.L.2005, c.133 (C.40:55D-23.3 et al.).
10 (cf: P.L.2005, c.133, s.2)

11
12 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

17 This bill would require the Commissioner of Community Affairs
18 to ensure that the training course for members of planning boards
19 and zoning boards of adjustment who are currently required to
20 attend such training classes are delivered in both online and in-
21 person formats. Other mandatory training programs, such as the
22 training requirement imposed on campaign treasurers pursuant to
23 N.J.S.19:44A-6, can be satisfied by completing an online training
24 program. This bill will allow board members to become better
25 trained without requiring them to take time out of a work day or a
26 weekend.