



OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

Michael R. Criss
First Selectman, Town of Harwinton

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

March 15, 2021

Good Afternoon, my name is Michael R. Criss, I am the First Selectman for the Town of Harwinton and I am submitting testimony regarding S.B. 1026 "An Act Concerning Training for Certain Planning and Zoning Officials."

S.B. 1026 "An Act Concerning Training for Certain Planning and Zoning Officials"

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and submit testimony on proposed S.B. 1026 "An Act Concerning Training for Certain Planning Zoning Officials." The Town of Harwinton supports S.B. 1026 due primarily to the fact that this bill will make it optional for municipalities to create ordinances with or without requirements for training of Land Use board members. This bill is not a mandate, which we are thankful for, however, it gives the flexibility to those communities concerned about education for their Land Use board commissioners. By having this bill proposed as a voluntary approach, it allows municipalities at any given time the freedom to adopt educational requirements. This will ensure that municipalities that have qualification concerns will have the option to require and administer as needed.

Any educational opportunities for Land Use commissioners should be designed by the Department of Housing so that towns can participate in no cost, low-cost options. The Town of Harwinton over the years has offered and taken advantage of many free educational opportunities for our Land Use commissioners to participate in. Because these positions are volunteer and budgets are tight, it would be next to impossible for the commissioner or for the town to pay for these courses.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of S.B. 1026 on behalf of the Town of Harwinton. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Michael R. Criss
First Selectman, Town of Harwinton

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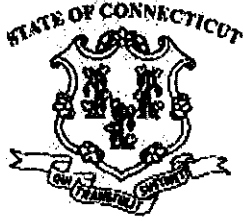
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General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 1026

LCO No. 4696



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:
(PD)

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, any municipality may, by ordinance, annually require each
3 member of such municipality's planning commission, zoning
4 commission, combined planning and zoning commission and zoning
5 board of appeals, as applicable, to complete not less than four hours of
6 training designed to assist such members in the effective performance
7 of such members' duties. Not less than two hours of training shall
8 include education on alternative or affordable housing. Any member
9 that completes training in excess of four hours in a year may count not
10 more than four hours of such excess training toward satisfying such
11 member's training requirement for the next calendar year.

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

16 the American Planning Association, the planning and zoning section of
17 the Connecticut Bar Association or a similar professional land use
18 association. Training may be conducted in a variety of formats,
19 including, but not limited to, electronic media, a video or distance
20 learning program or in a traditional classroom setting.

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To permit municipalities to require training for members of planning commissions, zoning commissions, combined planning and zoning commissions and zoning boards of appeals.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]