



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 41

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6830

House of Representatives, March 5, 2025

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. KAVROS DEGRAW of the 17th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*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, 2025*):

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, 2026, 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, 2026, shall complete such training program

13 (A) by January 1, 2027, and (B) once every four years thereafter, except
14 that any such member may complete such subsequent training program
15 once every term for which such member is elected or appointed, if such
16 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, 2026, 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 term for which such member is elected or
23 appointed, if such term is longer than four years.

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

40 (5) Not later than March 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, each inland
41 wetlands agency shall submit a statement to the legislative body or
42 board of selectmen of the municipality in which such agency sits,
43 affirming compliance with the training requirement established
44 pursuant to this section by each member of and staff person employed
45 by such agency who was required to complete such training in the

46 calendar year ending the preceding December thirty-first.

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2025	22a-42(d)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Sections 1(d)(2)(B) and 1(d)(3)(B), "every four years thereafter or once" was deleted for clarity.

PD *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill requires all, rather than one, inland wetlands agency members and employees to complete the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) training program. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as the training is currently available for free online.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6830*****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, 2026, to complete their initial training within one year from that date. Those 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 provide the training program free to one person for each town and distribute informational videos and written materials to the agencies.

The bill also creates an annual reporting requirement for the agencies, beginning by March 1, 2027, 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. Under both existing law and the bill, a member or employee's failure to complete the training does not invalidate the agency's actions. The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (02/14/2025)