



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 282**

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 444

*Senate, March 31, 2026*

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through SEN. RAHMAN of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES TO SERVE ON MUNICIPAL BOARDS OF FINANCE.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 7-421 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (e) Any municipal employee shall have the right to serve on any  
5 governmental body of the town in which such employee resides except  
6 any body which has responsibility for direct supervision of such  
7 employee. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, (1) no  
8 such employee shall serve on any of the following unless such employee  
9 is permitted to serve pursuant to the provisions of a municipal charter  
10 or home rule ordinance or serves because of membership on the  
11 legislative body of the municipality [: (A) Any board of finance created  
12 pursuant to chapter 106 or any special act or municipal charter; (B)] (A)  
13 any body exercising zoning powers pursuant to chapter 124 or any

14 special act or municipal charter; [(C)] (B) any body exercising land use  
15 powers pursuant to chapter 125a or any special act or municipal charter;  
16 [(D)] (C) any body exercising planning powers pursuant to chapter 126  
17 or any special act or municipal charter; or [(E)] (D) any body regulating  
18 inland wetlands and watercourses pursuant to chapter 440 or any  
19 special act or municipal charter; (2) no such employee shall serve on a  
20 board of finance created pursuant to chapter 106 or any special act or  
21 municipal charter unless such employee (A) is permitted to serve  
22 pursuant to the provisions of a municipal charter or home rule  
23 ordinance, (B) serves because of membership on the legislative body of  
24 the municipality, or (C) earned a salary or wages for such municipal  
25 employment totaling less than ten thousand dollars in the previous  
26 twelve-month period; and [(2)] (3) any municipality may, by ordinance  
27 adopted by its legislative body, authorize such employees to serve on  
28 (A) any body exercising zoning powers pursuant to chapter 124 or any  
29 special act or municipal charter; (B) any body exercising land use  
30 powers pursuant to chapter 125a or any special act or municipal charter;  
31 (C) any body exercising planning powers pursuant to chapter 126 or any  
32 special act or municipal charter; or (D) any body regulating inland  
33 wetlands and watercourses pursuant to chapter 440 or any special act or  
34 municipal charter.

35 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 8-19 of the general statutes is repealed  
36 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

37 (a) Any municipality may create by ordinance a planning  
38 commission, which shall consist of five members, who shall be electors  
39 of such municipality and whose terms of office and method of election  
40 or appointment shall be fixed in the ordinance. The ordinance may  
41 provide that members may be municipal employees if the municipality  
42 has adopted an ordinance authorizing such membership pursuant to the  
43 provisions of subparagraph (C) of subdivision [(2)] (3) of subsection (e)  
44 of section 7-421, as amended by this act. The chief executive officer of  
45 the municipality and the engineer thereof or commissioner of public  
46 works, if any, shall also be members of the commission, without voting  
47 privileges. The terms of office shall be so arranged that the terms of not

48 more than three members shall expire in any one year. Unless otherwise  
 49 provided by charter, vacancies shall be filled by the commission for the  
 50 unexpired portion of the term. Upon the adoption of this section by  
 51 ordinance as herein provided, and the appointment or election of a  
 52 commission thereunder, any planning commission in the municipality  
 53 established under any previous act of the General Assembly shall cease  
 54 to exist, and its books and records shall be turned over to the  
 55 commission established under this section, provided all regulations  
 56 promulgated by such planning commission prior to that time shall  
 57 continue in full force and effect until modified, repealed or superseded  
 58 in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. The area of  
 59 jurisdiction of a planning commission created by a town includes any  
 60 city or borough therein without a legally constituted planning  
 61 commission for all planning purposes except those specified in sections  
 62 8-24 and 8-29. Powers granted under said sections may be delegated by  
 63 the legislative body of such city or borough to the planning commission  
 64 of the town in which such city or borough is situated. Any city or  
 65 borough in which a planning commission has been previously  
 66 established may, by ordinance, designate the commission established  
 67 under this section in the town in which such city or borough is situated  
 68 to be the planning commission of such city or borough, and such  
 69 commission shall supersede the planning commission previously  
 70 established in such city or borough. The commission shall elect a  
 71 chairman and a secretary from its members, shall adopt rules for the  
 72 transaction of business and shall keep a public record of its activities.  
 73 The planning commission of each municipality shall file an annual  
 74 report with the legislative body thereof.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	7-421(e)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2026	8-19(a)

**PD**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

*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.*

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

The bill makes changes to eligibility for serving on a municipal board of finance that do not result in a fiscal impact.

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

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 444*****AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES TO SERVE ON MUNICIPAL BOARDS OF FINANCE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill creates an additional exception to a statutory prohibition on municipal employees serving on the board of finance (BOF) in the municipality in which they work and live. The bill allows these employees to serve on the BOF if they earn less than \$10,000 per year. Specifically, to fall under the exception, the salary and wages from the municipality cannot exceed \$10,000 in any rolling 12-month period.

Additionally, as under existing law, the prohibition on municipal employees serving on the BOF in the municipality does not apply if:

1. a local charter or home rule ordinance explicitly allows the service or
2. employees serve only in their capacity as a member of the municipality's legislative body (ex officio membership).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/13/2026)