

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1153**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Michael J. Rodrigues***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act improving local decision making.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Michael J. Rodrigues*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*First Bristol and Plymouth*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1153**

---

By Mr. Rodrigues, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1153) of Michael J. Rodrigues for legislation to provide training for certain local boards and commissions. Municipalities and Regional Government.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1211 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act improving local decision making.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 17 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new section:-

3           7B. The department shall establish, conduct and maintain an annual program of education  
4 and training for members of local boards of health; provided, however, that the department shall  
5 consult with the Massachusetts Association of Boards of Health in the development of said  
6 program; provided, further, that the department may contract with the Massachusetts Association  
7 of Boards of Health to provide such education and training. The department may charge a  
8 reasonable fee to board members to participate in the program. To the extent practicable, the  
9 education and training programs shall be offered in various locations throughout the  
10 commonwealth.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 21A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official  
12 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section fifteen the following new section:-

13 15A. The department of environmental protection shall establish, conduct and maintain  
14 an annual program of education and training for members of local conservation commissions;  
15 provided, however, that the department shall consult with the Massachusetts Association of  
16 Conservation Commissions in the development of said program; provided, further, that the  
17 department may contract with the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions to  
18 provide such education and training. The department may charge a reasonable fee to board  
19 members to participate in the program. To the extent practicable, the education and training  
20 programs shall be offered in various locations throughout the commonwealth..

21 SECTION 3. Section 3 of chapter 23B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 1  
22 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after clause (v) the following subsection:-

23 (w) establish, conduct and maintain an annual program of education and training for  
24 members of local planning boards and zoning boards of appeals; provided, however that the  
25 department shall consult with the Massachusetts Federation of Planning and Appeals Boards,  
26 Inc. regarding development of the program; provided further, the department may contract with  
27 the Massachusetts Citizen Planner Training Collaborative at the University of Massachusetts to  
28 provide such education and training. The department may charge a reasonable fee to board  
29 members to participate in the program. To the extent practicable, the education and training  
30 programs shall be offered in various locations throughout the commonwealth.

31 SECTION 4. Section 8C of chapter 40 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012  
32 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new paragraph:-

33           The members of the commission shall attend such training programs conducted or  
34 sponsored by the department of environmental protection under the provisions of section 15A of  
35 chapter 21A.

36           SECTION 5. Section 12 of chapter 40A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012  
37 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new paragraph:-

38           The members of the board shall attend such training programs conducted or sponsored by  
39 the department of housing and community development under the provisions of section 3 of  
40 chapter 23B.

41           SECTION 6. Section 81A of chapter 41 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012  
42 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new paragraph:-

43           The members of the board shall attend such training programs conducted or sponsored by  
44 the department of housing and community development under the provisions of section 3 of  
45 chapter 23B.

46           SECTION 7. Section 26 of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012  
47 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the fifth sentence the following new  
48 sentence:- The members of the board shall attend such training programs conducted or sponsored  
49 by the department of public health under the provisions of section 7B of chapter 17.