SENATE DOCKET, NO. 254 FILED ON: 1/10/2025

SENATE . . . . . No. 1432

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Julian Cyr

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 providing for pre-service training for members of local boards and commissions.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Julian Cyr	*Cape and Islands*	
John F. Keenan	*Norfolk and Plymouth*	*4/24/2025*
James B. Eldridge	*Middlesex and Worcester*	*5/27/2025*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 1432

By Mr. Cyr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1432) of Julian Cyr for legislation to provide for pre-service training for members of local boards and commissions. Municipalities and Regional Government.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. *1287* OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act providing for pre-service training for members of local boards and commissions.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 17 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new section:-

7B. The department shall establish, conduct and maintain an annual program of education and training for all new members of local boards of health; provided, however, that the department shall consult with the Massachusetts Municipal Association in the development of said program; provided, further, that the department may contract with the Massachusetts Association of Boards of Health to provide such education and training. All education and training courses shall be free of charge to board members and shall be offered in various locations throughout the commonwealth and by online only methods.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 21A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
11 section 15 the following new section:-

12 15A. The department of environmental protection shall establish, conduct and maintain
13 an annual program of education and training for all new members of local conservation
14 commissions; provided, however, that the department shall consult with the Massachusetts
15 Municipal Association in the development of said program; provided, further, that the
16 department may contract with the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions to
17 provide such education and training. All education and training courses shall be free of charge to
18 commission members and shall be offered in various locations throughout the commonwealth
19 and by online only methods.

20 SECTION 3. Section 3 of Chapter 23B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
21 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new
22 subsection:-

23 (w) establish, conduct and maintain an annual program of education and training for all
24 new members of local planning boards and zoning boards of appeals; provided, however that the
25 department shall consult with the Massachusetts Municipal Association regarding in
26 development of said program; provided, further, the department may contract with the
27 Massachusetts Citizen Planning Training Collaborative at the University of Massachusetts to
28 provide such education and training. All education and training courses shall be free of charge to
29 board members and shall be offered in various locations throughout the commonwealth and by
30 online only methods.

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

33 The members of the commission shall complete such training programs conducted or
34 sponsored by the department of environmental protection under the provisions of Section 15A of
35 Chapter 21A prior to their service on the commission.

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

38 The members of the board shall complete such training programs conducted or sponsored
39 by the department of housing and community development under the provisions of Section 3 of
40 Chapter 23B prior to their service on the board.

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

43 The members of the board shall complete such training programs conducted or sponsored
44 by the department of housing and community development under the provisions of Section 3 of
45 Chapter 23B prior to their service on the board.

46 SECTION 7. Section 26 of Chapter 111 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
47 amended by inserting after the fifth sentence the following new sentence:- The members of the
48 board shall complete such training programs conducted or sponsored by the department of public
49 health under the provisions of Section 7B of Chapter 17 prior to their service on the board.