

## **Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary**

**Bill #:** H.2299

**Title:** An Act regarding mandatory land use board training

**Sponsor:** Rep. Kristin Kassner

**Committee:** Municipalities and Regional Government

**Hearing Date:**

**Prior History:** Refile of H.3553 (OTP)

**Current Law:** Chapter 23B Section 3 of MGL lists the powers and duties of the department of housing and community development.

Subsection (n) authorizes the department to establish, conduct, and maintain a program of municipal professional personnel training for local governmental officials and personnel. The training includes, but is not limited to, the fields of municipal finance, engineering, fire, housing, urban renewal, planning, inspectors, public works, health, solid waste disposal, parks, recreation, sewer, and water.

**Summary:** Section 1 amends Chapter 23B Section 3 of MGL by inserting a new subsection (w) after subsection (v). Subsection (w) authorizes the department of housing and community development to establish, conduct, and maintain an education and training program for members of local planning boards and zoning boards of appeals, at no cost to municipalities. This new subsection also requires members of local planning boards and zoning boards of appeal to complete the program either online or in person within 60 days of becoming a member, and then again, every 2 years. Each member would have to show proof that they completed the program to their city or town clerk, who would keep those records for 6 years.

In developing the annual program, the department would consult with professional organizations representing planners and planning agencies, as well as the Massachusetts Citizen Planner Training Collaborative.

The education and training program would be offered both online and in person at various locations throughout the state at various times of year.