

2017 PLANNING GUIDANCE MEMO



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION - DIVISION OF STATEWIDE PLANNING

New Mandatory Education for Planning Boards / Commissions

November 2017

Introduction

This Guidance memo is offered to local officials involved in the planning and land management process. We provide this in the interest of assuring that all have a common understanding of state law amendments relative to new mandatory education requirements for planning board or commission members.



Legislative Background

Recognizing that floods and sea level rise are affecting our communities, Representative Lauren H. Carson (Newport) introduced House Bill 5042 in January of 2017. On October 5, 2017, Governor Raimondo signed the amended bill H5042aa and its Senate companion bill S1005 creating Chapter 403 of the 2017 General Public Laws of Rhode Island.

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/PublicLaws/law17/law17403.htm>

Guidance

In 2017, a new provision was added to RIGL §45-22-7. This portion of State Law describes the powers and duties of a planning board or commission. The new provision (j) requires that each member of a planning board or commission must participate in training and education classes concerning the effect of development in a flood plain and the effects of sea-level rise once every two years. Each member must complete two hours of training. See page 2 of this memo for how to access available online training. Training must be completed by September 30, 2019. Upon completion of the training, a member must file with the municipal clerk a statement asserting that the training has been completed. A sample statement of completion and educational resources can be found on page 2 of this memo.

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Sample Statement of Completion

Pursuant to R.I. General Law §45-22-7, as a member of the _____ Planning Board/ Commission, I am filing this statement with the _____ Clerk to satisfy the requirements of §45-22-7(j). I am asserting that I have completed two hours of training and education concerning the effect of development in a flood plain and or the effects of sea-level rise.

Signature

Print Name

Date: _____

Resources and Links

Division of Statewide Planning: <http://www.planning.ri.gov/>

The Division includes climate change in its planning efforts. The Division conducts projects, studies, and assessments that address issues related to climate change that will help inform decision makers. Several educational studies are available:

- o [Vulnerability of Municipal Transportation Assets to Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge](#)
- o [Technical Paper 164: Vulnerability of Transportation Assets to Sea Level Rise](#)
- o [Interactive Online map: Rhode Island Sea Level Rise: Impacts on Transportation Assets](#)

Training Resources on the RI Climate Change Website:

<http://climatechange.ri.gov/cities-towns/toolkits-guidance.php> This is a website for state information and resources on climate change and resiliency. Watch the PREP-RI online module series and access other videos/documents here to complete the mandatory two hours of training. Check out the full site, <http://climatechange.ri.gov/> for additional resiliency materials and a calendar of events/trainings.

PREP-RI: <http://prep-ri.seagrant.gso.uri.edu/new-page/>

Produced by the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography and the Narragansett Bay Research Reserve, this online series of six educational modules provides a foundation for municipal decision makers to help inform choices for supporting resilience to the impacts from climate change in Rhode Island.

For Further Information:

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