

ASSEMBLY, No. 4954

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 21, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JAMES J. KENNEDY

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Speight

SYNOPSIS

Requires members of historic preservation commissions to complete historic preservation planning course.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 AN ACT establishing a historic preservation planning course for
2 historic preservation commissions and supplementing P.L.1975,
3 c.291 (C.40:55D-1 et seq.).
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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
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8 1. a. The Commissioner of Community Affairs shall prepare
9 and offer a course in historic preservation planning within six
10 months from the effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the
11 Legislature as this bill) for regular, alternate, and prospective
12 members of historic preservation commissions established pursuant
13 to section 21 of P.L.1985, c.516 (C.40:55D-107). The course to be
14 prepared and offered shall consist of no more than five hours of
15 scheduled instruction and shall be structured so that a regular,
16 alternate, or prospective member may complete the course and
17 satisfy this requirement within one day. The commissioner shall
18 work in conjunction with the New Jersey Historic Trust and the
19 New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office to establish standards
20 for curriculum and administration of the course.

21 b. On or after the first date on which the course in historic
22 preservation planning is offered, a person shall not be seated as a
23 regular or an alternate member of a historic preservation
24 commission unless the person agrees to complete the course within
25 18 months of assuming membership in order to retain membership.

26 c. Any person who is serving as a regular or an alternate
27 member of a historic preservation commission on the first date on
28 which the historic preservation planning course required by this
29 section is offered shall be required to complete that course within
30 18 months of that date in order to retain membership.

31 d. A hearing or proceeding held, or decision or recommendation
32 made, by a historic preservation commission shall not be
33 invalidated if a member who has participated in the hearing,
34 proceeding, decision making, or recommendation is subsequently
35 found not to have completed the historic preservation planning
36 course required by this section.

37 e. The following persons shall be exempt from completing the
38 historic preservation planning course requirements established
39 pursuant to this section:

40 (1) Any person who is licensed as a professional planner and
41 maintains a certificate of license issued pursuant to chapter 14A of
42 Title 45 of the Revised Statutes which is current as of the date upon
43 which that person would otherwise be required to demonstrate
44 compliance with the provisions of this section.

45 (2) Any person who offers proof of having completed a more
46 extensive course than that required by this section, within 12
47 months of the date on which that person would otherwise be
48 required to demonstrate compliance with the provisions of this

1 section and which, in the determination of the Commissioner of
2 Community Affairs, is equivalent to or more extensive than the
3 course required by this section.

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5 2. This act shall take effect on the 60th day after the date of
6 enactment.

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STATEMENT

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11 This bill establishes a historic preservation planning course to be
12 completed by members and prospective members of historic
13 preservation commissions. The bill requires that all regular and
14 alternate members of historic preservation commissions complete a
15 historic preservation planning course to retain their membership on
16 the commission. The course will be prepared and offered by the
17 Department of Community Affairs. The course will be no more
18 than five hours of instruction and will be structured so that a
19 member is able to complete it within one day. The commissioner of
20 the Department of Community Affairs will work in conjunction
21 with the New Jersey Historic Trust and the New Jersey State
22 Historic Preservation Office to establish standards for the
23 curriculum and administration of the course. Under the bill, certain
24 persons who are certified as professional planners or who have
25 completed a more extensive course will be exempt from the course
26 required in the bill.

27 Historic preservation commissions established by law play a vital
28 role in preserving the unique character of New Jersey's small towns
29 and municipalities. New Jersey has over 300 years of history and
30 the loss of the tangible remains of the past would diminish New
31 Jersey's quality of life. This bill provides the tools to those who
32 oversee the preservation of our built environment so that the
33 vestiges of New Jersey's past will be carefully and thoughtfully
34 woven into the future.