



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 444**

**Public Act No. 26-136**

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES TO SERVE ON MUNICIPAL BOARDS OF FINANCE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 7-421 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(e) Any municipal employee shall have the right to serve on any governmental body of the town in which such employee resides except any body which has responsibility for direct supervision of such employee. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, (1) no such employee shall serve on any of the following unless such employee is permitted to serve pursuant to the provisions of a municipal charter or home rule ordinance or serves because of membership on the legislative body of the municipality [ (A) Any board of finance created pursuant to chapter 106 or any special act or municipal charter; (B) ] (A) any body exercising zoning powers pursuant to chapter 124 or any special act or municipal charter; [(C)] (B) any body exercising land use powers pursuant to chapter 125a or any special act or municipal charter; [(D)] (C) any body exercising planning powers pursuant to chapter 126 or any special act or municipal charter; or [(E)] (D) any body regulating inland wetlands and watercourses pursuant to chapter 440 or any

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special act or municipal charter; (2) no such employee shall serve on a board of finance created pursuant to chapter 106 or any special act or municipal charter unless such employee (A) is permitted to serve pursuant to the provisions of a municipal charter or home rule ordinance, (B) serves because of membership on the legislative body of the municipality, or (C) earned a stipend for such municipal employment totaling less than ten thousand dollars in the previous twelve-month period; and [(2)] (3) any municipality may, by ordinance adopted by its legislative body, authorize such employees to serve on (A) any body exercising zoning powers pursuant to chapter 124 or any special act or municipal charter; (B) any body exercising land use powers pursuant to chapter 125a or any special act or municipal charter; (C) any body exercising planning powers pursuant to chapter 126 or any special act or municipal charter; or (D) any body regulating inland wetlands and watercourses pursuant to chapter 440 or any special act or municipal charter.

Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 8-19 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) Any municipality may create by ordinance a planning commission, which shall consist of five members, who shall be electors of such municipality and whose terms of office and method of election or appointment shall be fixed in the ordinance. The ordinance may provide that members may be municipal employees if the municipality has adopted an ordinance authorizing such membership pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (C) of subdivision [(2)] (3) of subsection (e) of section 7-421, as amended by this act. The chief executive officer of the municipality and the engineer thereof or commissioner of public works, if any, shall also be members of the commission, without voting privileges. The terms of office shall be so arranged that the terms of not more than three members shall expire in any one year. Unless otherwise provided by charter, vacancies shall be filled by the commission for the

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unexpired portion of the term. Upon the adoption of this section by ordinance as herein provided, and the appointment or election of a commission thereunder, any planning commission in the municipality established under any previous act of the General Assembly shall cease to exist, and its books and records shall be turned over to the commission established under this section, provided all regulations promulgated by such planning commission prior to that time shall continue in full force and effect until modified, repealed or superseded in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. The area of jurisdiction of a planning commission created by a town includes any city or borough therein without a legally constituted planning commission for all planning purposes except those specified in sections 8-24 and 8-29. Powers granted under said sections may be delegated by the legislative body of such city or borough to the planning commission of the town in which such city or borough is situated. Any city or borough in which a planning commission has been previously established may, by ordinance, designate the commission established under this section in the town in which such city or borough is situated to be the planning commission of such city or borough, and such commission shall supersede the planning commission previously established in such city or borough. The commission shall elect a chairman and a secretary from its members, shall adopt rules for the transaction of business and shall keep a public record of its activities. The planning commission of each municipality shall file an annual report with the legislative body thereof.

Governor's Action:

Approved June 4, 2026