Authorities Budget Office
Policy Guidance

No. 17-01

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Supersedes: 15-02

Subject: Board Member Training

Statutory Citation: Section 2824(2) of Public Authorities Law

Provision: Section 2824(2) of the Public Authorities Law, as amended by Section 18 of the Public Authorities Accountability Act, requires directors to "participate in State approved training regarding their legal, fiduciary, financial and ethical responsibilities as board members of an authority within one year of appointment to a board." It also requires board members to "participate in such continuing training as may be required to remain informed of best practices, regulatory and statutory changes relating to the effective oversight of the management and financial activities of public authorities and to adhere to the highest standards of responsible governance."

The purpose of this training is to prepare individuals to understand and properly execute their role as board members and to be well-versed in the principles of corporate governance and the requirements of the law. Training provides the foundation for directors to exercise appropriate oversight and to recognize the responsibility they have to the mission of their organization, its management and staff, and to the public.

Authorities Budget Office Policy Guidance: The Authorities Budget Office (ABO) is overseeing the implementation of Section 2824(2) and has developed this Guidance to assist public authorities meet the requirements of the Act.

This Guidance outlines the training requirements and best practices for state and local public authority boards, including the timeframes for board member training, the board members who are required to receive training, board member training that meets this requirement, and the need for refresher training.

<u>Training Requirements</u>
Board members have 12 months from the date of their appointment to participate in training. As a best practice, the ABO recommends public authorities also conduct an internal orientation session for new board members upon their appointment to provide an overview of the authority's operations. Guidance on this subject is provided here:

https://abo.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2025/05/newboardmemberorientation.pdf

Participation in training extends to all members, including voting and non-voting members, ex officio members or designees. Board members may only have a designee if it is stipulated in law (enabling statute) or articles of incorporation. As a best practice the ABO encourages management staff, including Counsel, to attend training when appropriate.

The Act requires directors to participate in continuing training to “remain informed of best practices, regulatory and statutory changes relating to the effective oversight of the management and financial activities of public authorities and to adhere to the highest standards of responsible governance" (Section 2824(2)). As a best practice, the ABO recommends that directors participate in refresher training upon re-appointment to the Board or at least every three years.

The ABO has developed a comprehensive corporate governance curriculum and conducts training for directors and executive management of all state and local public authorities at no cost. Interactive webinar training, conducted by ABO staff is available on a regular basis during regular business hours. Authorities may sign up for training here:
http://www.abo.ny.gov/training/onlinetraining.html

It is the responsibility of the public authority to maintain documentation of board member participation in required training and to assure that board members are compliant with this requirement.