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American Bar Association

Model Land Use Procedures Act

**Prepared by the Sections of
State and Local Government Law
and
Administrative Law and
Regulatory Practice**

**Adopted by House of Delegates
August 8, 2008**

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The Model Act

OVERVIEW

Land use procedures are in need of reform. The Model Act provides an integrated set of procedures that will allow local governments to conduct hearings on land use proposals that are fair and complete. It also contains a judicial review process for land use decisions that can replace the obsolete and inadequate laws that are in effect in most states.

Attention is given to important issues such as completeness decision on applications, the content of hearing notices, hearing conduct, findings of fact requirements, and time limits. The judicial review provisions address issues such as the method of appeal, ex parte determinations, and the availability of specific relief.

Provisions in the model law for the administrative and hearing process can also be adapted for adoption at the local level.

OUTLINE OF THE STATUTE

- I. General Provisions
- II. Development Permit Review Process for Land-Use Decisions
- III. Hearing Examiners (optional)
- IV. Land-Use Review Board
- V. Administrative Actions and Remedies
- VI. Judicial Review of Land-Use Decisions

For the text of the model law, and a video explaining its provisions, go to law.wustl.edu/landuselaw