

2025 -- H 5795 SUBSTITUTE A

LC002155/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

Introduced By: Representatives Spears, Speakman, Donovan, McEntee, Knight, Cotter,  
Boylan, Caldwell, Dawson, and O'Brien  
Date Introduced: February 27, 2025  
Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 45-24-54 of the General Laws in Chapter 45-24 entitled "Zoning  
2   Ordinances" is hereby amended to read as follows:  
3           **45-24-54. Administration — Administration and enforcement of zoning ordinance.**  
4           (a) A zoning ordinance adopted pursuant to this chapter must provide for the administration  
5   and enforcement of its provisions pursuant to this chapter. The zoning ordinance must designate  
6   the local official or agency and specify minimum qualifications for the person or persons charged  
7   with its administration and enforcement, including: (1) the issuing of any required permits or  
8   certificates; (2) collection of required fees; (3) keeping of records showing the compliance of uses  
9   of land; (4) authorizing commencement of uses or development under the provisions of the zoning  
10   ordinance; (5) inspection of suspected violations; (6) issuance of violation notices with required  
11   correction action; (7) collection of fines for violations; ~~and~~ (8) upon written request, issue a zoning  
12   certificate or provide information to the requesting party as to the determination by the official or  
13   agency; and (9) performing any other duties and taking any actions that may be assigned in the  
14   ordinance. ~~In order to provide guidance or clarification, the zoning enforcement officer or agency~~  
15   ~~shall, upon written request, issue a zoning certificate or provide information to the requesting party~~  
16   ~~as to the determination by the official or agency~~ A zoning certificate shall be issued within ~~fifteen~~  
17   ~~(15)~~ twenty (20) days of the written request. In the event that no written response is provided within  
18   that time, the requesting party has the right to appeal to the zoning board of review for the  
19   determination pursuant to § 45-24-63.

1           **(b) The requesting party has the right to appeal the determination made in the zoning**  
2           **certificate pursuant to § 45-24-63.**

3           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
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1           This act would amend the administration requirements a zoning ordinance must provide  
2   and/or designate and would require that zoning certificates be issued within twenty (20) days of the  
3   written request.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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