

2026 -- H 7774

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LC005049
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING CODE

Introduced By: Representatives Speakman, Cortvriend, Casey, Shekarchi, Giraldo,
Alzate, Spears, Boylan, Kazarian, and Donovan

Date Introduced: February 12, 2026

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-27.3-100.1.5 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-27.3 entitled
2 "State Building Code" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-27.3-100.1.5. Building code — Adoption and promulgation by committee.**

4 (a) The state building code standards committee has the authority to adopt, promulgate,
5 and administer a state building code, which shall include:

6 (1) Provisions and amendments as necessary [including, but not limited to, those necessary](#)
7 to resolve conflicts between fire safety codes and building codes, as provided for in § 23-28.01-6;
8 and

9 (2) A rehabilitation building and fire code for existing buildings and structures.

10 (b) The building code may be promulgated in several sections, with a section applicable
11 to:

12 (1) One-, two (2)-, three (3)-, and four (4)-family dwellings using the International
13 Residential Code from the International Code Council ("ICC") and any amendments thereto
14 adopted by the state building code standards committee;

15 (2) To multiple dwellings with more than four (4) residential units, and hotels and motels
16 and other commercial structures using the Commercial International Building Code from the ICC
17 and any amendments thereto adopted by the state building code standards committee;

18 [\(3\) An energy conservation code using the International Energy Conservation Code \(IECC\)](#)
19 [and any amendments thereto adopted by the state building code standards;](#) and

1 ~~(3)~~(4) To general building construction; to plumbing; and to electrical.

2 (c) The building code shall incorporate minimum standards for the location, design,
3 construction, and installation of wells that are appurtenances to a building in applicable sections.
4 For purposes of this chapter, “appurtenance” includes the installation, alteration, or repair of wells
5 connected to a structure consistent with chapter 13.2 of title 46.

6 (d) The building code and the sections thereof shall be reasonably consistent with
7 recognized and accepted standards adopted by national model code organizations and recognized
8 authorities. To the extent that any state or local building codes, statutes, or ordinances are
9 inconsistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title III, Public Accommodations and
10 Services Operated by Private Entities, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 et seq., and its regulations and standards,
11 they are hereby repealed. The state building code standards committee is hereby directed to adopt
12 rules and regulations consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Titles II and III (28
13 C.F.R. Part 35 and 28 C.F.R. Part 36, as amended), as soon as possible, but no later than February
14 15, 2012, to take effect on or before March 15, 2012. The state building code standards committee
15 is hereby authorized and directed to update those rules and regulations consistent with the future
16 revisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Standards.

17 (e) All electrical work done in the state shall be in accordance with the latest edition of the
18 National Electrical Code (NEC). The state building code standards committee shall adopt the latest
19 edition of the NEC, including any amendments to the NEC by the committee. The adoption of the
20 NEC by the commission shall be completed so that it will take effect on the first day of July of the
21 year the edition is dated.

22 (f) By January 1, 2027, the building codes standards committee shall adopt the 2024
23 International Residential Code, including any amendments, for one to four (4) family dwelling
24 units.

25 (g) Upon alignment with the 2024 code year basis, as amended by the state building code
26 standards committee, there shall be a moratorium on changing any state building code applicable
27 to residential structures of one to four (4) family dwelling units in effect until January 1, 2030,
28 during which period the state building code standards committee shall not adopt, and the state
29 building office shall not enforce, any changes to the state building code, as amended unless
30 otherwise approved by the general assembly and made effective by the governor.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would amend the state building code and would require that the state adopt the
2 2024 International Residential Code and prohibit the state building committee from adopting
3 amendments for one to four residential dwelling units until 2030.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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