

2026 -- H 7970

LC005817

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MECHANICAL TRADES

Introduced By: Representatives Furtado, Casimiro, McGaw, Donovan, Alzate, and
Messier

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: House Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 28-27 of the General Laws entitled "Mechanical Trades" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **28-27-35. Locksmith licensing.**

4 (a) Definitions. For purposes of this section:

5 (1) "Apprentice locksmith" means an individual performing locksmithing under the direct
6 supervision of a licensed locksmith while completing required training or work experience.

7 (2) "Department" means the Rhode Island department of labor and training.

8 (3) "Locksmith" in Rhode Island means any person who installs, services, repairs, rekeys,
9 or opens locks or locking devices.

10 (4) "Locksmithing" means performing any activity defined under "locksmith," including
11 key duplication and security system servicing.

12 (b) License required. No person shall engage in locksmithing or hold themselves out as a
13 locksmith in Rhode Island without a valid locksmith license issued by the department.

14 (c) Application for license.

15 (1) Applicants shall submit to the department:

16 (i) A completed application form with name, residence, and business address;

17 (ii) A recent photograph;

18 (iii) A certified criminal records background check issued by the attorney general or
19 municipal police department in which the individual resides;

1 (iv) Proof of training or apprenticeship;
2 (v) The application fee as determined by the department.
3 (2) The department may deny, suspend, or revoke a license if the applicant has a criminal
4 conviction involving theft, fraud, violence, or dishonesty that bears on suitability to perform
5 locksmithing.

6 (d) Disciplinary actions. The department may suspend, revoke, or refuse renewal of a
7 locksmith license for:

8 (1) Fraud or misrepresentation in obtaining a license;

9 (2) Criminal conduct related to locksmithing; or

10 (3) Violations of this chapter or department regulations.

11 (e) Exemptions. This section does not apply to:

12 (1) Federal, state, or local government employees performing official duties;

13 (2) Retail employees duplicating keys on site under employer supervision; or

14 (3) Homeowners performing locksmithing on their own property.

15 (f) Rules and regulations. The department shall adopt such rules and regulations as are
16 necessary to implement this chapter, including licensing procedures, examinations, fees,
17 recordkeeping standards, and disciplinary processes.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MECHANICAL TRADES

1 This act would require that locksmiths in Rhode Island must be licensed and have passed
2 a criminal background check.

3 This act would take effect on January 1, 2027.

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