

2026 -- H 8018

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING CODE

Introduced By: Representatives McEntee, Caldwell, Dawson, Spears, O'Brien, and Casey

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-27.3-120.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-27.3 entitled "State
2 Building Code" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-27.3-120.1. New buildings.**

4 (a) No building or structure hereafter erected shall be used or occupied in whole or in part
5 until a certificate of use and occupancy shall have been issued by the building official. The
6 certificate shall not be issued until all work has been completed in accordance with the provisions
7 of this code, the Fire Safety Code (chapters 28.1 — 28.39 of this title), of all approved permits, and
8 of all applicable codes for which a permit is required, except as provided in § 23-27.3-120.4. In
9 addition, the certificate shall not be issued for any property serviced by a private well until the
10 property owner has submitted documentation to the building official which demonstrates
11 compliance with the drinking water testing requirements and the drinking water standard for
12 coliform bacteria, fluoride, lead, nitrate and nitrite for private wells established by the director of
13 health. A city or town may require additional testing and compliance with quality standards
14 established pursuant to § 23-1-5.3(6).

15 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, approval of new residential
16 construction shall require at a minimum, two (2) means of egress consisting of standard exterior
17 doors.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING CODE

- 1 This act would require that any new residential construction shall have a minimum of two
- 2 means of egress consisting of standard exterior doors.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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