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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 Casey, Phillips, and J. Brien

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-27.3-111.2 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-27.3 entitled "State
2 Building Code" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-27.3-111.2. Inspection.**

4 (a) The building official shall make all required inspections as specified in the provisions
5 of this code and the building official shall conduct the inspections from time to time during and
6 upon completion of the work for which the building official has issued a permit; and the building
7 official shall maintain a record of all the examinations and inspections and of all violations of this
8 code. In conjunction with specific construction projects, the building official may designate specific
9 inspection points in the course of construction which require the contractor or builder to give the
10 building official twenty-four (24) hours notice prior to the time when the inspections are required
11 to be performed. The building official shall make the inspection within forty-eight (48) hours after
12 the notification; weekend days and holidays are not included in the forty-eight (48) hours. [The](#)
13 [building official, in the building official's discretion, may conduct "virtual inspections", or inspect](#)
14 [photographic evidence, to review completion of work for which the building official has issued a](#)
15 [permit. For the purposes of this section "virtual inspections" involve remote assessments of](#)
16 [properties or sites using video technology, avoiding on-site presence by inspectors.](#)

17 (b) If the building official fails to perform an inspection within the time frame set forth in
18 this section, the contractor or builder may hire a qualified third-party inspector or the state
19 inspector. The building official shall accept reports of such inspections. For the purposes of this

1 section, a qualified third-party inspector shall mean an individual certified in accordance with the
2 provisions of § 23-27.3-107.6 or any professional authorized by the provisions of § 23-27.3-
3 108.1.4. In order to hire a qualified third-party inspector or the state inspector, the contractor or
4 builder shall notify the building official via email of the intent to hire a qualified third-party
5 inspector or the state inspector to perform the inspection at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the
6 hire. If the state inspector performs the inspection, the salary and operating expenses for services
7 provided shall be reimbursed to the state by the city or town receiving the services and shall be
8 deposited as general revenues.

9 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 allow for building inspectors to conduct “virtual inspections” or utilize
2 photographic evidence, at the building official’s discretion, from time to time during and upon
3 completion of the work for which the building official has issued a permit.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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