

2026 -- H 8031

LC005091

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- RHODE ISLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING
AND LAND USE ACT

Introduced By: Representative Joseph J. Solomon

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 45-22.2 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island Comprehensive
2 Planning and Land Use Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **45-22.2-12.1. Extension of municipal comprehensive plan deadlines.**

4 (a) Upon written request of a city or town, the Rhode Island division of statewide planning
5 ("the division") may grant an extension of the deadline for the update of a municipal comprehensive
6 plan for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months; provided that, the municipality has
7 demonstrated active engagement in the comprehensive plan update process, as determined by the
8 division, toward the preparation and submission of an update in accordance with this chapter.

9 (b) In determining whether a municipality has demonstrated active engagement in the
10 update process, the division may consider, but shall not be limited to, whether the municipality has:

11 (1) Initiated the comprehensive plan update process;

12 (2) Engaged or procured professional planning or consulting services;

13 (3) Conducted public outreach, workshops, or hearings;

14 (4) Coordinated with state agencies or the division; or

15 (5) Submitted draft materials or documentation for preliminary or formal review.

16 (c) During any extension granted pursuant to this section, the municipality's existing
17 comprehensive plan shall be deemed to remain in full force and effect for all purposes including,
18 but not limited to, zoning consistency, regulatory compliance, and eligibility for state or federal

1 [funding.](#)

2 [\(d\) A municipality may be granted one extension pursuant to this section.](#)

3 [\(e\) The division may issue guidance or procedures necessary to implement the provisions](#)

4 [of this section.](#)

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- RHODE ISLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING
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1 This act would authorize municipalities to request a one-time, state-approved extension of
2 the deadline for updating their comprehensive plans, provided the municipality demonstrates active
3 engagement in the update process, and to ensure that the existing comprehensive plan remains in
4 effect during the extension period.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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