

2026 -- H 8431

LC006290

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- REFUSE DISPOSAL

Introduced By: Representatives Finkelman, Casimiro, Craven, Caldwell, McEntee,
McGaw, Shanley, and Solomon

Date Introduced: April 10, 2026

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 23-18.9 of the General Laws entitled "Refuse Disposal" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **23-18.9-19. Siting restrictions for pyrolysis facilities.**

4 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

5 (1) "Pyrolysis facility" means any facility or operation that thermally decomposes solid
6 waste, including plastics or other organic materials, in an oxygen-limited or oxygen-free
7 environment for the purpose of producing fuel, gas, oil, char, or other byproducts. The term shall
8 include any preprocessing, storage, or handling of feedstock or byproducts conducted as part of
9 such operation.

10 (2) "School" means any public or private elementary or secondary school, including charter
11 schools, approved by the Rhode Island department of education and serving students in any of
12 grades kindergarten through twelve (k-12).

13 (b) Prohibition.

14 Effective July 1, 2026, no person shall site, construct, install, expand, or operate a pyrolysis
15 facility within one mile of the property line of any school.

16 (c) Measurement.

17 The distance required under subsection (b) of this section shall be measured in a straight
18 line from the nearest property boundary of the proposed pyrolysis facility to the nearest property
19 boundary of the school.

1 (d) Permitting.

2 The Rhode Island department of environmental management shall not issue any permit,
3 license, or approval for a pyrolysis facility that does not comply with the requirements of this
4 section.

5 (e) Non-waiver.

6 The requirements of this section shall be mandatory and shall not be waived by the
7 department or any other state or municipal authority.

8 (f) Relationship to other laws.

9 The provisions of this section shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other applicable
10 requirements under this chapter or any other provision of the general laws or regulations.

11 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 HEALTH AND SAFETY -- REFUSE DISPOSAL

- 1 This act would prohibit the construction, expansion or operation of a pyrolysis facility
- 2 within one mile of a school.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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