

2020 -- S 2533

LC004985

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - - STATE BUILDING CODE

Introduced By: Senators Ciccone, Lombardo, Lombardi, Lawson, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: February 25, 2020

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 23-27.3 of the General Laws entitled "State Building Code" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

23-27.3-800. Residential fuel oil tanks.

(a) Definitions: As used in this section, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates another or different meaning or intent:

(1) "Fuel return line" means a line that returns unused fuel oil back to the tank.

(2) "Fuel supply line" means a line from a tank to a burner in which oil is supplied to the burner.

(3) "Oil burner" means a device for burning oil in heating appliances including, but not limited to, boilers, furnaces, water heaters or ranges.

(4) "Oil safety valve" means a device that prevents the flow of oil if a fuel supply line breaks.

(5) "Residential property" means a one to four (4) unit dwelling used for living or sleeping.

(6) "Tank" means a liquid fuel tank in which heating oil is stored and from which heating oil is delivered or pumped through a fuel supply line to an oil burner, whether located within a dwelling or other structure, including tanks installed at or below grade level, or located outdoors but excluding underground tanks wherever located.

(b) An owner of residential property utilizing a heating oil tank for consumptive use on the premises with one or more fuel supply lines or return lines in direct contact with concrete, earth or

1 other floor surfaces shall within one year of the effective date of this statute enclose any exposed
2 fuel supply line and/or exposed fuel return line with a continuous non-metallic sleeve and cause an
3 oil safety valve to be installed at the tank end of any fuel supply line in accordance with the
4 manufacturer's instructions. Prior to the first oil delivery after August 31, 2021 a licensed oil burner
5 technician shall inspect and certify compliance with the provisions of this section and shall submit
6 a copy of this certification to the municipal building official.

7 (c) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall not be required if:

8 (1) The burner is located above the fuel storage tank and the entire fuel supply line is
9 connected to, and above, the top of the tank; or

10 (2) Any tank for which fuel supply lines or an oil safety valve were installed or upgraded
11 on or after January 1, 1990; provided, however, that such installation or upgrade has been inspected
12 and certified to be in compliance with subsection (b) of this section by a licensed oil burner
13 technician and submitted to the municipal building inspector.

14 (d) An inspection of upgrades of fuel supply lines and the installation of oil safety valves
15 for compliance with subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall be conducted by a licensed oil burner
16 technician. Upgrades that comply with said subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall be certified by
17 such technician on a form prescribed by the municipal building inspector and the owner shall
18 submit the certification to the municipal building inspector.

19 (e) All certifications and records filed with the municipality where the residential property
20 is located pursuant to this section shall be maintained in the municipal building inspector's office
21 file for future reference as needed.

22 (f) Upon commencement of a heating system fuel conversion from oil to another fuel
23 source or any changes in the location of an oil tank, the fill pipe and vent pipe from said oil tank
24 shall be immediately disconnected and removed from the tank as well as removed from the outside
25 of the building.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would amend the state building code to require the enclosure with a continuous
2 non-metallic sleeve of any exposed fuel supply or fuel return line within one year of passage. An
3 inspection certifying compliance with this act is required prior to the first oil delivery after August
4 31, 2021.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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