

2023 -- S 0308

LC001230

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, and Felag

Date Introduced: February 16, 2023

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-63.1 of the General Laws entitled "Tourism and Development" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **42-63.1-14.2. Municipal regulations for short-term rentals.**

4 (a) A municipality, by and through its city or town council, is authorized to grant and issue
5 licenses regulating the establishment and use of short-term rentals, as defined by § 42- 63.1-14(b).
6 In granting such short-term rental licenses, the municipality may establish rules and regulations
7 which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

8 (1) Annual health and safety inspections inclusive of fire code, building, and health and
9 safety regulations or statutes and approved sewage or wastewater services;

10 (2) Annual licensing fees not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per bedroom, as
11 defined in the Rhode Island state building code, in the proposed short-term rental facility;

12 (3) The name, address, and active phone number of a responsible individual or entity for
13 emergency or other contacts;

14 (4) The provision of private adequate trash removal services and recycling for any short-
15 term rental facility that is not occupied by its owner;

16 (5) The provision of on-site parking; and

17 (6) The limitation of use of the property for events or gatherings that are inconsistent with
18 the underlying zoning designation or local rules or ordinances.

1 (b) A municipality may provide, by separate ordinance, a limit on the number of licenses
2 issued under this section within the municipality as a whole or within specific neighborhoods or
3 zoning districts.

4 (c) A municipality may include in a separate ordinance a provision for fines for the failure
5 of a licensee to comply with the licensing requirement, said fine not to exceed five hundred dollars
6 (\$500) per incident.

7 (d) The municipality shall not vote on the issuance of any license for a short-term rental
8 until the conclusion of a public hearing that has been advertised at least three (3) consecutive weeks
9 in a newspaper of general circulation and on the municipality's website. The advertisement shall
10 contain the name of the applicant, the address of the proposed short-term rental, including the plat
11 and lot number, the maximum occupancy of the proposed short-term rental, and the current zone
12 of the property.

13 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 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- TOURISM AND
DEVELOPMENT

1 This act would authorize municipalities to establish rules and regulations and issue licenses
2 for short-term rentals. The act would permit municipalities to charge a licensing fee and regulate
3 such things as:

4 (1) Inspections including fire code, building, and health and safety;

5 (2) Requiring private trash removal services and parking; and

6 (3) Limiting the use of the property for events or gathering.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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