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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- OUTDOOR DINING ACT

Introduced By: Representatives McEntee, Fogarty, Tanzi, Blazejewski, Spears, Cotter,  
Craven, Carson, Voas, and Cortvriend  
Date Introduced: June 05, 2025

Referred To: House Small Business

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 45-24.7 of the General Laws entitled "Outdoor Dining Act" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **45-24.7-5. Temporary outdoor dining services.**

4           (a) Any time a building or other structure used as a food service establishment, is rendered  
5 uninhabitable by virtue of a casualty including, but not limited to, fire or flood, the food service  
6 establishment may, upon approval of the city or town council, provide temporary outdoor dining  
7 services for a period of up to eighteen (18) months from the date of approval received from the city  
8 or town council, or until the building or structure is rehabilitated and otherwise made fit for  
9 occupancy, as long as the location of the temporary outdoor dining area complies with applicable  
10 state health and life safety regulations. The temporary outdoor dining service shall be permitted,  
11 notwithstanding any municipal ordinance, including zoning or planning regulations to the contrary,  
12 and if the municipality has issued a liquor license for the food service establishment, the license  
13 may be used in conjunction with the temporary outdoor dining service.

14           (b) Unless extended by the general assembly, the provisions of this section shall sunset and  
15 expire on June 30, 2027.

16           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 -- OUTDOOR DINING ACT

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1           This act would allow a food service establishment to provide temporary outdoor dining  
2 services any time a building or other structure used as a food service establishment is rendered  
3 uninhabitable by virtue of a casualty including, but not limited, to fire or flood for eighteen (18)  
4 months or the building is fit for occupancy. The act would sunset and expire on June 30, 2027.  
5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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