

2026 -- H 7150

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LC003581
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL POWERS

Introduced By: Representatives Paplauskas, Hopkins, Fascia, Place, Quattrocchi,
Santucci, Roberts, Newberry, Noret, and J. Brien
Date Introduced: January 16, 2026

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 45-2 of the General Laws entitled "General Powers" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:
- 3 **45-2-71. Regulation of powered landscape equipment.**
- 4 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of a municipal charter, ordinance, rule, or regulation to
5 the contrary, no city or town shall enact or enforce any ordinance or regulation that prohibits, bans,
6 or otherwise restricts the sale, purchase, ownership, or use of powered landscape equipment based
7 solely upon the type of fuel or power source used by such equipment.
- 8 (b) For purposes of this section, "powered landscape equipment" shall include, but not be
9 limited to, leaf blowers, lawn mowers, string trimmers, hedge trimmers, edgers, and similar outdoor
10 maintenance equipment, whether powered by gasoline, diesel, electricity, battery, or other energy
11 source.
- 12 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a city or town from adopting or
13 enforcing:
- 14 (1) Reasonable, content-neutral noise regulations of general applicability;
15 (2) Restrictions on hours of operation applicable to all powered equipment; or
16 (3) Regulations necessary to address public safety concerns, provided such regulations do
17 not effectively prohibit the use of powered landscape equipment based on fuel type.
- 18 (d) Grandfathering. Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, any ordinance or
19 regulation of a city or town that was duly adopted and in effect prior to the effective date of this

1 section and that prohibits or restricts powered landscape equipment based on fuel or power source,
2 including any municipal ban, shall remain valid and enforceable within that municipality; provided
3 that, such ordinance or regulation is not amended, expanded, or reenacted after the effective date
4 of this section.

5 (e) Any ordinance or regulation adopted, amended, expanded, or reenacted after the
6 effective date of this section that is inconsistent with the provisions herein shall be deemed null and
7 void.

8 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 prohibit municipalities from restricting certain landscaping equipment
- 2 based on its power source.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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