

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

BUILDING CODE COMMISSION

Title of Rule: RISBC-8 Rhode Island Energy Conservation Code

Rule Identifier: 510-RICR-00-00-8

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: June 26, 2025

End of Public Comment: July 26, 2025

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-27.3-100.1.5

23-27.3-100.1.5.4

and 23.27.3-109.1

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The Building Code Standards Committee (BCSC) is proposing amendments to the Rhode Island Energy Conservation. The current version of the Property Maintenance Code adopted the International Code Council's (ICC) International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) 2018 edition. Currently, these amendments reflect the BCSC's proposed adoption of the 2024 edition of the IECC pursuant to a statutory mandate in R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-27.3-100.1.5.4. Notably, § 23-27.3-100.1.5.4(a)(1) states: "The state building code standards committee shall revise the state energy conservation code to comply with this requirement within one year of any update to the International Energy Conservation Code; provided, however, that the 2021 IECC published by the International Code Council shall not be adopted and the 2024 IECC published by the International Code Council shall be adopted within (3) three months of its release."

The few state specific amendments to the IECC 2024 model code are for consistency with the other building code regulations in RICR Title 510 and the Fire Safety Codes in RICR Title 450, compliance with RI statutes, and ensure that the model codes align with the needs of this state.

Additionally, all building code regulations being amended in this cycle have been edited for clarity and internal consistency of formatting and style, and to be easily read with the other building code regulations and the model codes that these regulations adopt. Formatting changes include: listing every model code chapter and stating whether each chapter is adopted, adopted with changes or deleted; leading the all changes with the model code section number for quick reference; and focusing on model code numbering to simplify citation and avoid confusion.

The Regulation adopts IECC 2024 as required by the statutory mandate, R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-27.3-100.1.5.4

§§ 8.1 and 8.2 – Updated and simplified the provisions in these sections.

Notably, IECC 2024 contains separate parts of the Code for commercial and residential structures.

The majority of IECC 2024 is adopted, with only minimal changes to ensure consistency with existing RI laws and procedures. These amendments are in the Commercial Chapter 1 and Residential Chapter 1.

Specific appendices have been adopted for both commercial and residential parts of the code. These appendices (Appendix CH and RK) are adopted pursuant to existing statutory requirements.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until July 26, 2025 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

James Cambio, Commissioner
Building Code Commission
State Building Office
560 Jefferson Blvd, Suite 100
Warwick, RI 02886
DBR.StateBuildingOffice@dbr.ri.gov

In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.8, an oral hearing will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, by a governmental agency or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within ten (10) days of the publication of this notice.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

In accordance with a statutory mandate in R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-27.3-100.1.5.4(a)(1), the Commission is proposing these amendments to move from IECC 2018 to IECC 2024. The Commission has exercised its discretion in making a few administrative amendments to ensure that this model code can be read in conjunction with the rest of the state building codes and fire codes. These changes have no impact on actual building code requirements and are merely related to cross references and the removal of content that is otherwise covered by state law (jurisdiction, appeals, permitting, etc.).

These minor amendments benefit RI and the building and design industry by avoiding confusion and integrating this model code into the family of RI building codes adopted by regulation.

The Commission has not exercised any discretion in the adoption of IECC 2024 that would result in a cost to Rhode Islanders or the building industry.

In the development of the proposed amendment consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches; (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (3) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.