

RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

BUILDING CODE COMMISSION

Title of Rule: RISRC-1 State Rehabilitation Building and Fire Code for Existing Structures

Rule Identifier: 510-RICR-00-00-20

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 § 23-29.1-2 and 23-29.1-3

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The Building Code Standards Committee (BCSC) is proposing amendments to Regulation 510-RICR-00-00-20, the State Rehabilitation Building and Fire Code for Existing Structures (Part 20). Concurrent with updating amendments to Parts 1-20 of the Rhode Island Building Code, BCSC is adopting as new Part 7 the International Code Council (ICC) International Existing Building Code (IEBC) which Part 7 will be cited as Regulation 510-RICR-00-00-7 and titled "Existing Building Code". Part 7 will govern repairs, renovations, modifications, additions, etc. of 4+ family and commercial structures. This adoption of Part 7 will eliminate the need for duplicative building elements provisions in Part 20.

Additionally, the proposed regulation amendment includes edits for clarity and internal consistency of formatting and style.

Former §20.1 is reformatted as §§20.1 through 20.18, with:

a. New §§ 20.4 and 20.5 amended to reflect the incorporation by reference of the Rhode Island Life Safety Code (RILSC), Chapter 43 titled Building Rehabilitation as adopted by the RI Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review (FSCBAR) for the fire code element and the International Existing Building Code (IEBC) as adopted by the BCSC (Part 7, Regulation 510-RICR-00-00-7 – see box B1 above) for the building code element. New §§20.1 and 20.6 added to confirm the statutory authority and conflict resolution with respect to any inconsistency between Part 7 and the RILSC.

b. New §§ 20.1 through 20.18 edited for formatting, consistency and clarity.

Former §20.2 through 20.12 are deleted since they are duplicative and no longer necessary with the adoption of Part 7, 510-RICR-00-00-7.

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:

These amendments include clarifying language relative to the fire code and building code requirements incorporating references to the RILSC and the IEBC, which streamlines and simplifies the regulation. This adoption provides needed flexibility for property owners seeking to renovate or alter existing buildings, thereby mitigating costs that may be associated with compliance with other code provisions. 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.