

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

**CONTRACTORS' REGISTRATION & LICENSING BOARD**

**Title of Rule:** Rules and Regulations for Licensed Residential Contractors

**Rule Identifier:** 440-RICR-10-00-7

**Rulemaking Action:** Proposed Adoption

**Important Dates:**

Date of Public Notice: October 2, 2026

End of Public Comment: November 1, 2026

**Rulemaking Authority:**

R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-65.4-3

R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-65.4-4

**Summary of Rulemaking Action:**

Effective July 2, 2025, R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 5-65.4 (the "Act"), was enacted to create two new license types for contractors who perform structural residential construction work in Rhode Island. Specifically, the legislation directs the Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board ("Board") at the Department to promulgate rules and regulations, no later than January 1, 2027, to create two new license types for: (1) contractors who build new homes, and (2) contractors who perform structural remodeling to existing residential structures.

Summary of the substantive provisions in the proposed regulation:

- §§ 7.1, 7.2, & 7.3 – Authority, Purpose and Scope sections are required for all regulations.
- § 7.4 - Definitions: defines terms used in the regulations and expands on and/or clarifies statutory definitions included in the Act.
- § 7.5 - License Application Requirements
- § 7.6 - License Submission Procedures
- § 7.7 - Licensing Terms, Renewals and Continuing Education
- § 7.8 - Tiered Licensing and Registration: Outlines how the Act expands the existing contractor registration program into the three-tiered licensing scheme established by the Act.
- § 7.9 - Complaints, Investigations, Hearings and Enforcement: Outlines the Board's procedures for complaints, investigations, enforcement/disciplinary actions and administrative hearing.
- § 7.10 - Professional Standards for licensees.
- § 7.11 - Fee Schedule for license applications, renewals and examinations and examination waiver applications.
- § 7.12 - Fine Schedule for violations.
- §§ 7.13, 7.14 & 7.15 - Access to Public Records, Equal Access to Justice for Small Businesses and Severability are standard sections in most regulations and consistent with the provisions in the other Board Regulations in RICR Title 440.

**Additional Information and Public Comments:**

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed adoption until November 1, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

James Gallo, Chief, CRLB  
Contractors' Registration & Licensing Board

Attn: CRLB  
560 Jefferson Blvd, Suite 100  
Warwick, RI 02886  
dbr.contractorregistration@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:**

Effective January 1, 2028, all contractors who perform residential structural remodeling work and build new residential structures shall be required to obtain a license in accordance with the Act and this regulation.

There are approximately 10,000 registered contractors in the existing registration program under Chapter 5-65. The Board estimates that 30% of existing registrants will seek to upgrade their registration to one of the 2 licenses issued under this regulation.

The Act requires that licensees meet a standard of competency to be demonstrated by and through application information and the fulfillment of requirements, including a statement of skills and evidence of training and experience, proof of insurance, passing an examination, and completing continuing education as a condition of renewal. The regulation delineates these application and licensing requirements. These requirements are designed to ensure that the licensed contractors are competent to offer the more complex home building and structural home remodeling services, which safeguards public health, safety, welfare and consumer protection consistent with the Act.

The Act requires the Board to establish licensing fees and fines, which will be deposited into a restricted receipt account and used to fund the licensing program operations including new staff positions to support Board's implementation and administration of this new licensing program. There will also be incidental costs for contractors to satisfy the statutory and regulatory requirements to obtain a license. Entry-level costs such as exam costs and pre-license education are one-time expenses that contractors will incur. In addition, there will be annual operating costs including the license fee, and costs to satisfy insurance requirements, and continuing education requirements. Licensees who are already registered contractors already incur some of these costs as part of their annual registration requirements, so the overall cost impact is lessened. Additionally, contractor registrants who already have insurance policies that meet the requirements proposed in this regulation should not have any additional insurance premium costs to upgrade from a registration to a license.

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.

To view the proposed regulation, please click on the "Regulation" tab. The Cost Benefit Analysis is available under the "Rulemaking Documents" tab by clicking on the link for "Additional Documentation."

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