

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

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING

Title of Rule: Rules and Regulations Relating to Prevailing Wages (260-RICR-30-15-3)

Rule Identifier: 260-RICR-30-15-3

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: May 26, 2026

End of Public Comment: June 26, 2026

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 37-13

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The Department proposes amendments to 260-RICR-30-15-3 to conform the Rhode Island prevailing wage regulations to recent statutory amendments to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 37-13. The amendments incorporate: 1) the prohibition on cash payments in lieu of healthcare benefits under R.I.G.L. § 37-13-7(b)(2)(ii)(A), effective July 1, 2024; 2) the prohibition on cash payments in lieu of retirement or pension benefits under R.I.G.L. § 37-13-7(b)(2)(ii)(C), effective July 1, 2025; 3) coverage of school transportation services (including school bus drivers, aides, and monitors) under R.I.G.L. § 37-13-7(c)(2); and 4) the Department's annual publication of prevailing retirement or pension benefit rates by classification. The amendments adopt implementing definitions (including "Healthcare Benefit," "Proof of Purchase," "School Transportation Services," and "Short-term basis"), codify the statutory exemptions (e.g. employees currently receiving healthcare benefits or employed on a short-term basis), establish proof-of-purchase documentation requirements, codify the statutory non-waiver provision, and confirm civil penalties consistent with R.I. Gen. Laws § 37-13-7(b)(2)(ii)(D)-(E). Conforming internal cross-references and minor stylistic corrections are also made throughout. No fees are created or increased, and no new licensing categories are established.

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 June 26, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Richard Finnegan III
Department of Labor and Training
1511 Pontiac Ave.
Bldg. 72-3
Cranston, RI 02920
richard.finnegan@dlt.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:

The amendments implement recent statutory changes to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 37-13. Because the substantive obligations are imposed directly by statute, the regulatory amendments do not impose new obligations beyond those already imposed by law. The amendments are expected to improve regulatory clarity for contractors, subcontractors, awarding authorities, labor organizations, and covered employees by providing consolidated definitions, exemption criteria, and documentation requirements. The proposal is not anticipated to affect state or municipal budgets, and does not impose new fees, licensing, or bond requirements on regulated parties. Private-sector compliance costs flow from the underlying statute rather than from the regulation.

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