

Concise Explanatory Statement

Rhode Island Government Register

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.6, following is a concise explanatory statement:

AGENCY: Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (“Department”)

DIVISION: Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review (“RIFSCBAR”)

RULE IDENTIFIER: 450-RICR-00-00-8

REGULATION TITLE: Rhode Island Life Safety Code

RULEMAKING ACTION: Full rulemaking, Amendment

REASON FOR RULEMAKING:

RIFSCBAR is proposing changes to the Rhode Island State Fire Safety Code Regulations. These changes include updating the base codes to a more recent version of the relevant national/international base codes—updating from the NFPA 2015 family of model codes to the NFPA 2018 model codes. RIFSCBAR has also compiled RI-specific amendments that make changes to these base codes to better align with the specific needs of Rhode Island.

CHANGES TO TEXT OF THE RULE:

- Numerous punctuation and grammatical changes have been made throughout that do not result in substantive changes to the regulation.
- A number of sections have been relocated due to format changes made by NFPA and while they appear as deletions and/or additions, no changes to the substantive text have been made.
- All references to NFPA Code (“NFPA”) 2015, have been changed to the 2018 edition. Some NFPA section numbers have been amended to conform to NFPA 2018.
- Throughout the regulation: updated internal cross-references with new RICR citations and references to the 2021 version for all Parts in Title 450 being amended this year.
- Chapter 9: Building Service and Fire Protection Equipment – 9.6.1.6 and 9.6.1.7 clarify existing terms to be more compatible with updated code terminology. 9.6.8.8 deletes rule

language that is now incorporated in the model code. 9.12 clarifies that NFPA 720 has been withdrawn as the relevant document and replaced by NFPA 72.

- Chapter 14: New Educational Occupancies. 14.3.4.4 Carbon Monoxide Detection Systems deletes rule language that is now incorporated in the model code.
- Chapter 24: One- and Two-Family Dwellings. 24.6.3.1.1.7 incorporates a clarification presently found in an existing Formal Interpretation regarding the addition of new bedrooms.
- Chapter 26: Lodging or Rooming Houses. 26.1.1.1.8 adds a new classification of Congregate Family Living Facilities that provides certain relief from the full requirements of this chapter to those facilities that might qualify as a lodging house but do not warrant full compliance due to special circumstances.
- Chapter 31: Existing Apartment Buildings. 31.1.1.1 incorporates a clarification presently found in an existing Blanket Variance regarding the addition exceptions permitted for certain existing apartment buildings.
- Chapter 32 New Residential Board and Care Facilities. 32.2.3.4.5 1 & 32.3.3.4.9 Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detection Systems deletes rule language that is now incorporated in the model code.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No Public Comments were received:

REGULATORY ANALYSIS:

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-28.3, the Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review “has the power to promulgate, amend, and repeal rules and regulations to safeguard life and property from the hazards of fire and explosives.” The statute further notes that “regulations, amendments, or repeals shall be in accordance with standard safe practice as embodied in widely recognized standards of good practice for fire prevention and fire protection.” After considering each of the proposed changes and the alternative means of achieving the goals of each provision, the Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review has determined that the benefits of the proposed changes to the state fire safety codes justify the costs of the proposed rule, and that the

proposed rule will achieve the objectives of the authorizing statute in a more cost-effective manner, or with greater net benefits, than other regulatory alternatives.