

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-00-00-10

REGULATION TITLE: Rhode Island Fire Alarm 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 2013 model code to the NFPA 2019 model code.

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”) 2013, have been changed to the 2019 edition. Some NFPA section numbers have been amended to conform to NFPA 2019.
- 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.
- The primary reason for this change in edition is to accommodate a decision by NFPA to withdraw NFPA 720 as a document and merge the related requirements into NFPA 72. These requirements relate to carbon monoxide detection and warning systems.

- The RIFSCBAR cannot and does not make any discretionary changes to NFPA 72. This is a strictly technical reference standard to be used when the requirements for a fire alarm system or carbon monoxide warning system are mandated by another code, i.e. Parts 7 and/or 8 of this rule.

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.