



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Substitute Bill No. 5401



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTING,
REVISING AND AMENDING THE STATE BUILDING CODE AND
REQUIRING RELATED TRAINING.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 29-252 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (a) (1) The State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards
5 Committee shall, jointly, with the approval of the Commissioner of
6 Administrative Services and in accordance with the provisions of
7 section 29-252b, adopt and administer a State Building Code based on a
8 nationally recognized model building code for the purpose of regulating
9 the design, construction and use of buildings or structures to be erected
10 and the alteration of buildings or structures already erected and make
11 such amendments thereto as they, from time to time, deem necessary or
12 desirable. Such amendments shall be limited to [administrative matters,
13 geotechnical and weather-related portions of said code, amendments to
14 said code necessitated by a provision of the general statutes and any
15 other matter which, based on substantial evidence, necessitates an
16 amendment to said code] amendments necessitated by a state or federal
17 law and amendments necessary to protect public health and safety or
18 maintain eligibility for federal funding. The [code] State Building Code
19 shall be revised as deemed necessary to incorporate any subsequent

20 revisions to the nationally recognized model building code not later
21 than eighteen months following the date of first publication of such
22 subsequent revisions to the nationally recognized model building code,
23 except the State Building Code shall not be revised more frequently than
24 once every six years or once per two full model code cycles. For each
25 proposed revision to the State Building Code, the State Building
26 Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee shall publish a
27 projected schedule for, and the anticipated effective date of, such
28 revision at least eighteen months prior to such anticipated effective date.
29 For purposes of this subdivision, "model code cycle" means the
30 recurring period, typically three years, during which an edition of the
31 nationally recognized model building code is published.

32 (2) The State Building Code includes any code, rule or regulation
33 incorporated therein by reference.

34 (3) The purpose of said Building Code shall also include, but not be
35 limited to, promoting and ensuring that such buildings and structures
36 are designed and constructed in such a manner as to conserve energy
37 and, wherever practicable, facilitate the use of renewable energy
38 resources, including provisions for electric circuits capable of
39 supporting electric vehicle charging in any newly constructed
40 residential garage in any code adopted after July 8, 2013. [Said Building
41 Code includes any code, rule or regulation incorporated therein by
42 reference. As used in this subsection, "geotechnical" means any
43 geological condition, such as soil and subsurface soil condition, which
44 may affect the structural characteristics of a building or structure.]

45 [(2)] (4) In adopting amendments to the State Building Code pursuant
46 to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the State Building Inspector, the
47 Codes and Standards Committee and the Commissioner of
48 Administrative Services shall consider that the housing shortage in the
49 state compromises the safety of residents who cannot afford a safe
50 home, and any such amendments shall encourage production of
51 buildings that include safe housing and can be constructed at a
52 reasonable cost.

53 (5) (A) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, from October
54 1, 2026, to October 1, 2032, inclusive, the State Building Inspector and
55 the Codes and Standards Committee shall not require, consider,
56 approve or adopt any new building standard, except for any
57 amendment that the State Building Inspector and the Codes and
58 Standards Committee determine to be necessary to (i) address an
59 imminent threat to public health or life safety, (ii) maintain eligibility
60 for, or avoid the loss of, federal funding, including, but not limited to,
61 disaster recovery funds, (iii) comply with federal law or regulation, (iv)
62 make (I) editorial, formatting or nonsubstantive revisions solely for
63 clarity or internal consistency, or (II) technical corrections that do not
64 increase the cost of construction or expand the scope of activity
65 regulated by the State Building Code, or (v) incorporate minimum
66 federal accessibility requirements. For purposes of this subdivision,
67 "building standard" means any requirement that applies to the
68 construction, alteration, addition, repair, change of use or occupancy of
69 any residential, commercial, institutional, industrial or mixed-use
70 building or structure.

71 (B) Any amendment made pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this
72 subdivision shall (i) be narrowly tailored to the minimum necessary
73 scope, (ii) include written findings and a statement of necessity made by
74 the State Building Inspector and included in the code-making record,
75 and (iii) terminate automatically not later than twenty-four months after
76 the effective date of such amendment unless extended in accordance
77 with this subdivision.

78 (C) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7-148, during the time
79 period described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, no
80 municipality shall adopt, and no local building official shall enforce, any
81 building standard that is more restrictive than the building standards
82 established by the State Building Code.

83 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 29-251c of the general statutes is
84 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
85 *1, 2026*):

86 (c) (1) The commissioner shall establish a program of education and
87 training in the mechanics and application of the State Building Code and
88 the Fire Safety Code conducted for any municipal or state code official,
89 or any candidate for such positions, and a continuing educational
90 program in the mechanics and application of the State Building Code
91 and the Fire Safety Code for any architect, engineer, landscape architect,
92 interior designer, builder, contractor or superintendent of construction
93 doing business in this state.

94 (2) There shall be a one-year implementation period beginning on the
95 effective date of the State Building Code or any revision or amendment
96 thereto that is approved or deemed approved pursuant to section 29-
97 252b. During such implementation period, the commissioner shall
98 utilize the programs established pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
99 subsection to provide training and code enforcement education
100 regarding the State Building Code or any such revision or amendment
101 that became effective on such effective date.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	29-252(a)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2026	29-251c(c)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
In Section 2(c)(2), "or such amendment" was changed to "or any such revision or amendment" for internal consistency.

PS Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO