



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 325**

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5401

*House of Representatives, April 1, 2026*

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. BOYD of the 50th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  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

---

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

---

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill changes how frequently the State Building Code is revised, extending the model code cycle from three to six years. This does not result in a fiscal impact.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5401*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTING, REVISING AND AMENDING THE STATE BUILDING CODE AND REQUIRING RELATED TRAINING.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes several changes to when and under what circumstances the State Building Code may be amended. Among other things, it:

1. limits the frequency with which the code can be revised to once every six years or once per two full “model code cycles;”
2. requires publishing a projected schedule for proposed code revisions at least 18 months before the revision’s anticipated effective date;
3. prohibits the state building inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee from requiring, considering, approving, or adopting any new building standard from October 1, 2026, to October 1, 2032, unless doing so satisfies one of several prerequisites, such as being necessary to address an imminent threat to public health or life safety; and
4. restricts municipalities from adopting, and local building officials from enforcing, any building standard that is more restrictive than those in the code.

Under the bill, a “building standard” is any requirement that applies to the construction, alteration, addition, repair, or change of use or occupancy of any residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, or mixed-use building or structure.

The bill also requires the Department of Administrative Services commissioner to give training and code enforcement education for one year after the effective date of any approved or deemed approved revision or amendment to the State Building Code. She must do so using the education and training and continual educational programs in the mechanics and application of the State Building Code that existing law already requires her to create for state and municipal code officials and candidates, architects, engineers, landscape architects, interior designers, builders, contractors, and construction superintendents.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

### **STATE BUILDING CODE AMENDMENTS**

Existing law allows the state building inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee to make amendments to the State Building Code as they deem necessary or desirable. Current law generally limits amendments to (1) administrative matters, (2) geotechnical and weather-related portions of the code, (3) compliance with general statutes provisions, and (4) any other matter which, based on substantial evidence, necessitates an amendment. The bill eliminates those conditions and instead limits amendments to those needed (1) by a state or federal law, (2) to protect public health and safety, or (3) to maintain eligibility for federal funding.

Whenever the nationally recognized model building code that the State Building Code is based on is revised, current law requires the state building inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee to update the state's code within 18 months after the date of the revision's first publication. The bill creates an exception to this requirement by, instead, limiting the frequency of the revision of the State Building Code to no more than once every six years or once per two full model code cycles. Under the bill, a "model code cycle" is the recurring period, typically three years, during which an edition of the nationally recognized model building code is published.

The bill requires the state building inspector and Codes and Standards Committee to publish a projected schedule for each proposed State Building Code revision and its effective date at least 18 months before that date.

Additionally, from October 1, 2026, to October 1, 2032, the bill prohibits the state building inspector and Codes and Standards Committee from requiring, considering, approving, or adopting any new “building standard” (see above). However, during this period, the bill allows them to make any amendment they deem necessary to:

1. address an imminent threat to public health or life safety;
2. maintain eligibility for, or avoid the loss of, federal funding, including, disaster recovery funds;
3. comply with federal law or regulation;
4. make (a) editorial, formatting, or non-substantive revisions solely for clarity or internal consistency or (b) technical corrections that do not increase the cost of construction or expand the scope of activity regulated by the State Building Code; or
5. incorporate minimum federal accessibility requirements.

Under the bill, these amendments must (1) be narrowly tailored to the minimum necessary scope, (2) include written findings and a statement of necessity made by the state building inspector and included in the code-making record, and (3) terminate automatically within 24 months after the effective date of the amendment unless it is extended on one of the bases above.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable  
Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/17/2026)