



## *Office of the State Fire Marshal*

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Written Testimony regarding RI House Bill H-5100

Chairman Casey and Members of the Municipal Government and Housing Committee:

The office of the RI Fire Marshal supports this legislation and it's intent, but recommends the following technical changes to avoid any possible conflicts with The Rhode Island Fire Code.

The first change is on page 1, line 12, where it states:

12 (1) Is confirmed by the state fire marshal and/or a state building official or both, to comply

The recommended change in language is the following:

12 (1) Is confirmed by the state fire marshal **where applicable or local fire marshal** and/or a state building official or both, to comply

\*The reason behind this change is that many city/town fire marshals do their own inspections and as written, only RI State Fire Marshals would be permitted. This may cause unnecessary delays in obtaining an inspection.

The second technical language change is also on page 1, line 17, where it states:

17 (C) Hardwired smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

The recommended change in language is the following:

17 (C) Hardwired smoke **detector(s) or sealed battery-operated smoke alarm(s)** and **hardwired carbon monoxide detector(s) or sealed battery-operated carbon monoxide alarm(s)**. **Detectors and Alarms as defined in NFPA 72.**

\*The reason behind this change is that the RI Fire Code allows for an option of hardwired or sealed battery for both smoke and carbon monoxide devices. Presently, these battery-operated devices

come with a 10 year sealed battery but as technology evolves, we want to limit being specific, so that the legislation doesn't become dated. This office wants to be fair and making certain that the same options are afforded to all.

The third technical language change is also on page 1, line 17, where it states:

18 (D) A fire extinguisher.

The recommended change in language is the following:

18 (D) A 2.5 Lb. ABC fire extinguisher.

\*The reason behind this change is that the type and minimum size of fire extinguisher should be properly noted in this legislation to ensure compliance with Rhode Island Fire Code.

To remain consistent throughout the legislation, the fourth and final technical change is to Page 3, lines 4 and should read as follows:

4 door, Hardwired smoke detector(s) or sealed battery-operated smoke alarm(s) and hardwired carbon monoxide detector(s) or sealed battery-operated carbon monoxide alarm(s), a 2.5 Lb. ABC fire extinguisher, an egress window or

In closing, the State Fire Marshals Office is available for any additional questions or concerns that you may have with these recommended changes. Please feel free to reach out to me directly or to the office.



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Timothy McLaughlin  
Rhode Island State Fire Marshal