

# Narragansett seeks to regulate short-term rentals

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NARRAGANSETT, R.I. (WPRI) — A proposal to regulate short-term rentals in Narragansett is receiving pushback from property owners.

The Narragansett Town Council put forth the ordinance with the hopes of improving housing affordability.

The proposal would mandate short-term rentals last for a minimum of seven nights. It would also ban the use of short-term rentals for weddings, banquets, corporate events, and bachelor or bachelorette parties.

In addition, the proposal would decrease the number of available short-term rental permits approved over the next few years.

Narragansett currently doesn't regulate short-term rental properties. The council shared data that reveals the town's number of permanent residents has decreased significantly over the past decade.

Meanwhile, the number of short-term rental properties has skyrocketed — so much so that Narragansett is now home to the most in the state.

"We want to create balance among residents, vacationers, students and seasonal renters," Narragansett Council President Ewa Dzwierzynski said. "We want to increase quality of life for everyone, and I think it's important to build community. We want people to be here year round — we want families moving into Narragansett."

Those who are against the proposal argue that it will have the opposite effect.

"You're choking small businesses," property owner Michelle Cotroneo said. "This whole state relies on tourism."

“It’ll make rents increase, make housing more scarce and actually increase real estate costs,” property owner Jack Durkin added.

The council voted in favor of the proposal 3-1 Monday night, with one councilor abstaining. The ordinance won’t take effect until it’s brought before the council for a second reading, which could happen at the council’s next scheduled meeting.