



# Short-Term Rental Registration

---

PAMELA TORO, ESQ.  
LEGAL ADMINISTRATOR  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION  
SEPTEMBER 2023

# *STR Registration Requirement*

R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 42-63.1-14 and 42-63.1-14.1; Regulations 230-RICR-30-20-4

Any short-term rental property (STR) offered for rent of 30 nights or less that is listed on a third-party hosting platform which conducts business in Rhode Island, must be registered with the Department of Business Regulation (DBR)

Property owner or lessee offering the STR is responsible to register

The state registration is independent of any municipal registration requirements

FAQs on DBR's website: <https://dbr.ri.gov/real-estate-and-commercial-licensing/short-term-rentals/short-term-rentals-FAQs>

# *STR Registration Terms*

Two year registration – \$50 fee

One registration for each unit

Non-transferable, change of registrant requires a new filing

Registration includes the property address and a point of contact

Registrant must update their registration for any change of contact person, number of rooms rented, and/or change of registered agent or property manager

Penalties for failing to register: \$250 for first 30 days; \$500 for 31-60 days; and \$1,000 for 60+ days

# *STR Registration System & Database*

DBR has established an electronic registration system and database:

<https://dbr.ri.gov/real-estate-and-commercial-licensing/short-term-rentals>

Register and renew via DBR's e-Licensing system: <https://elicensing.ri.gov/>

Can search the database by property address, city/town, registration number, and registration status: [https://dbr.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur696/files/2022-12/HOWTO\\_Lookup%20STR.pdf](https://dbr.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur696/files/2022-12/HOWTO_Lookup%20STR.pdf)

Property owner information can be obtained by search of city/town tax assessor's database: <https://www.ri.gov/towns/>

# STR Registration Data

## Registrations:

4,752 as of 9/15/2023

### Top 10:

- |                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| • Narragansett    | 976 |
| • Newport         | 539 |
| • Middletown      | 459 |
| • Providence      | 445 |
| • South Kingstown | 406 |
| • New Shoreham    | 344 |
| • Westerly        | 273 |
| • Charlestown     | 228 |
| • Little Compton  | 138 |
| • Portsmouth      | 135 |

## Complaints:

14 during CY2023

### Top 3:

- Unregistered
- Noise
- Residential zoning

## Enforcements:

- DBR issued 8 non-compliance notices
- DBR worked with owners to resolve promptly (registered or de-listed)
- Assessed fines of \$0