

**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI
RESOLUTION #2026-01-27-C**

**REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER AMENDING
LEGISLATION RELATING TO ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS**

WHEREAS: The Town of Portsmouth is diverse in housing options, including dense neighborhood including single-family, two-family and multi-family options, as well as medium design and rural and agricultural areas; and

WHEREAS: The Town of Portsmouth supports state initiatives to increase housing stock of all types to provide multiple diverse options for current and future residents of Portsmouth; and

WHEREAS: In 2021 the Town of Portsmouth proactively enacted local legislation that provides for accessory dwelling units (“ADUs”) that include generous and liberal provisions including detached ADUs; and

WHEREAS: The Town of Portsmouth is concerned that the current legislation supports the dismantling of the option for current and future residents to live in a single-family neighborhood and further promotes purchases for an investment through home rentals that will lead to limiting the options for home ownership; and

WHEREAS: The current legislation provides that an ADU can be as large as a typical ranch-style home in Portsmouth (i.e., 1,200 square feet), which is considered a principal structure, and further is unclear whether dimensional relief may be sought for size limitations; and

WHEREAS: The Town of Portsmouth has extremely limited access to public transit, which was recently reduced further, reducing any chance of a reduction in motor vehicle traffic as density increases; and

WHEREAS: The Town of Portsmouth supports ADUs in all neighborhoods and zoning districts when owner-occupied.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
OF PORTSMOUTH, RHODE ISLAND AS FOLLOWS:**


SECTION 1: The Town of Portsmouth respectfully requests that the General Assembly review the current legislation for accessory dwelling units and amend to permit municipalities to (1) require that primary residences with ADUs must be owner occupied for at least five years, (2) ADUs not occupied by family members or caretakers must be rented at affordable rates, and (3) limit size of ADUs to 1,000 square feet.

SECTION 2: The Town Clerk direction to forward this resolution to all of the town and city councils in the State of Rhode Island, to the Honorable Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President and the Portsmouth General Assemble delegation.

SECTION 3: THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON ITS PASSAGE BY THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Town of Portsmouth's State Senator and Representatives, the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, and all municipalities within the State of Rhode Island for their consideration.

Adopted this 27th day of January 2026.



Keith E. Hamilton
Portsmouth Town Council President

ATTEST: 

Jennifer M. West, CMC, Town Clerk