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LC005513/SUB A
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- SUBDIVISION OF LAND

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Cruz, Morales, Speakman,
Spears, Craven, Azzinaro, Casimiro, and Solomon

Date Introduced: March 05, 2024

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 45-23 of the General Laws entitled "Subdivision of Land" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **45-23-36.1. Electronic permitting.**

4 (a) On or before October 1, 2025, every municipality in the state, shall adopt and
5 implement electronic permitting for all development applications filed under this chapter. For
6 purposes of this section, "electronic permitting" means use of computer-based tools and services
7 that automate and streamline the application process to include, but not be limited to, task-specific
8 tools for: applications; submission of plans; completed checklists and checklist documents; reports;
9 plan review; permitting; scheduling; certificates of completeness and incompleteness;
10 supplemental submissions; project tracking; staff and technical review committee comments; fee
11 calculation and collection.

12 (b) The state building commissioner, with the assistance of the office of regulatory reform
13 and the division of statewide planning, pursuant to the provisions of § 23-27.3-108.2 may
14 promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

15 (c) The local towns and cities shall charge each applicant an additional one-tenth of one
16 percent (.001%) of the total application fee for each application submitted. This additional amount
17 shall be transmitted monthly to the state building office at the department of business regulation,
18 and shall be used to staff and support the purchase or lease and operation of one web-accessible
19 service and/or system to be utilized by the state and municipalities for the uniform, statewide

1 electronic submission, review and processing of development applications as set forth in this
2 section.

3 (d) On or before October 1, 2025, notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to
4 the contrary, all acts, requirements, filings, and documents necessary to comply with the application
5 process shall be conducted by means of electronic permitting.

6 (e) The department of business regulation shall reimburse annual fees and costs associated
7 with compliance with this program in accordance with procedures established by the department.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 45-24 of the General Laws entitled "Zoning Ordinances" is hereby
9 amended by adding thereto the following section:

10 **45-24-58.1. Electronic permitting.**

11 (a) On or before October 1, 2025, every municipality in the state, shall adopt and
12 implement electronic permitting for all development applications under this chapter. For purposes
13 of this section, "electronic permitting" means use of computer-based tools and services that
14 automate and streamline the application process to include, but not be limited to, task-specific tools
15 for: applications; submission of plans; completed checklists and checklist documents; reports; plan
16 review; permitting; scheduling; project tracking; staff and technical review committee comments;
17 fee calculation and collection.

18 (b) The state building commissioner, with the assistance of the office of regulatory reform
19 and the division of statewide planning, pursuant to the provisions of § 23-27.3-108.2 may
20 promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

21 (c) The local towns and cities shall charge each applicant an additional one-tenth of one
22 percent (.001%) of the total application fee for each application submitted. This additional amount
23 shall be transmitted monthly to the state building office at the department of business regulation,
24 and shall be used to staff and support the purchase or lease and operation of one web-accessible
25 service and/or system to be utilized by the state and municipalities for the uniform, statewide
26 electronic submission, review and processing of development applications as set forth in this
27 section.

28 (d) On or before October 1, 2025, notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to
29 the contrary, all acts, requirements, filings, and documents necessary to comply with the application
30 process shall be conducted by means of electronic permitting.

31 (e) The department of business regulation shall reimburse annual fees and costs associated
32 with compliance with this program in accordance with procedures established by the department.

33 SECTION 3. Chapter 45-53 of the General Laws entitled "Low and Moderate Income
34 Housing" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

1 **45-53-16. Electronic Permitting.**

2 (a) On or before October 1, 2025, every municipality in the state, shall adopt and implement
3 electronic permitting for all development applications under this chapter. For purposes of this
4 section, “electronic permitting” means use of computer-based tools and services that automate and
5 streamline the application process to include, but not be limited to, task-specific tools for:
6 applications; submission of plans; completed checklists and checklist documents; reports; plan
7 review; permitting; scheduling; project tracking; staff and technical review committee comments;
8 fee calculation and collection.

9 (b) The state building commissioner, with the assistance of the office of regulatory reform
10 and the division of statewide planning, pursuant to the provisions of § 23-27.3-108.2 may
11 promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

12 (c) The local towns and cities shall charge each applicant an additional one-tenth of one
13 percent (.001%) of the total application fee for each application submitted. This additional amount
14 shall be transmitted monthly to the state building office at the department of business regulation,
15 and shall be used to staff and support the purchase or lease and operation of one web-accessible
16 service and/or system to be utilized by the state and municipalities for the uniform, statewide
17 electronic submission, review and processing of development applications as set forth in this
18 section.

19 (d) On or before October 1, 2025, notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to
20 the contrary, all acts, requirements, filings, and documents necessary to comply with the application
21 process shall be conducted by means of electronic permitting.

22 (e) The department of business regulation shall reimburse annual fees and costs associated
23 with compliance with this program in accordance with procedures established by the department.

24 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- SUBDIVISION OF LAND

- 1 This act would require that municipalities implement electronic permitting for all
- 2 development applications pursuant to zoning and the subdivision of land.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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