

ROOMING HOUSE LICENSE ORDINANCE

Sec. 8-56. - License required. No person shall keep a restaurant, bakery shop, coffeeshop, oyster house or victualling house, hotel, roominghouse or boardinghouse within the town without first having obtained a license from the town clerk. (Rev. Ords. 1989, § 8-56)

Sec. 8-57. - License fee; issuance of license. (a) The town clerk is hereby authorized to issue numbered licenses, to expire on December 1 next following the date of the license or whenever revoked by the council, to such persons as may apply to keep a restaurant, bakery shop, coffeeshop, oyster house or victualling house upon payment of the sum which is on file in the town clerk's office for every establishment serving liquor, and the sum which is on file in the town clerk's office for all other establishments. The license shall be posted in a conspicuous place within the premises.

(b) The town clerk is authorized to issue numbered licenses in like manner to such persons as may apply to keep and operate a hotel, roominghouse or boardinghouse upon payment of the sum which is on file in the town clerk's office. The license shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the hotel, roominghouse or boardinghouse. (Rev. Ords. 1989, § 8-57)

RI GENERAL LAWS, CHAPTER 45-24.3, Housing Maintenance & Occupancy Code (Excerpts)

RIGL 45-24.3-12. ROOMING HOUSE: (a) "No person shall operate a rooming house, or occupy, or let to another for occupancy, any rooming house except in compliance with the provisions of §§ 45-24.3-6, 45-24.3-7, and 45-24.3-11. No owner or other person shall occupy, or let to another person, any vacant rooming unit unless it is clean, sanitary, and fit for human occupancy, and in compliance with all applicable requirements of this state and of the corporate unit."

(b) "No person shall operate a rooming house unless he or she holds a valid rooming house permit issued by the appropriate authority in the name of the operator and for the specific dwelling or dwelling unit specified therein. The operator shall apply to the appropriate authority for the permit, which shall be issued only after it has been determined that the rooming house is in compliance with the applicable provisions of this chapter and with any rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter. This permit must be displayed in a conspicuous place within the rooming house at all times. No permit is transferable. Every person holding a permit shall give notice in writing to the appropriate authority within twenty-four (24) hours after having sold, transferred, given away, or otherwise disposed of ownership of, interest in, or control of any rooming house. The notice shall include the name and address of the person succeeding to the ownership, or control, of the rooming house. Every rooming house permit expires at the end of the year of license following its date of issuance, unless sooner suspended or revoked as provided in this chapter."

(Any person or corporation who is renting 3 or more rooms to persons, who are not members of their immediate family, is required to file an application for Rooming House License.)

RIGL 45-24.3-15(i). INSPECTIONS: “The enforcing officer has the right to prosecute for any violation of this chapter as provided by law, and is authorized to execute all warrants, with the exception of search warrants, for the violation of laws, rules, and regulations relating to this chapter and to serve subpoenas issued for the trial of all offenses against the laws, rules, and regulations relating to this chapter.”

RIGL 45-24.3-18(d). PENALTIES: “Where the violations continue one year or more after notice of the violations, an additional civil penalty is imposed on the owner, occupant, operator, or agent of a dwelling, dwelling unit, rooming unit, or structure. The additional civil penalty shall be a cumulative penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100) per day for each day each violation continues. This penalty constitutes a lien on the real estate until paid.”