



Shaping Tomorrow's Global Built Environment Today

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Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

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April 9, 2026

The Honorable Jacob E. Bissaillon
Chair
Committee on Housing and Municipal Government
Rhode Island Senate
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

Re: SB 3032, “An Act Relating to Health and Safety – State Building Code”

Dear Chair Bissaillon, Vice Chair De Mario and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government:

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers. ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global professional society of more than 54,000 members, including nearly 100 in Rhode Island, that focuses on the engineering of building systems, indoor air quality, and resiliency. Through research, standards development, publishing, certification, and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's global built environment today.

I would like to express ASHRAE's opposition to SB 3032. This bill would prohibit the state building code from being revised or updated for the next 5 years, until 2031. This would unnecessarily delay Rhode Island residents from benefiting from the reduced energy costs and increased energy efficiency of the most up-to-date building energy codes.

Rhode Island's commercial energy code is based on the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), which references ASHRAE's Standard 90.1, [*Energy Standard for Sites and Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*](#). The current state code is based on the 2024 IECC and the 2022 edition of Standard 90.1. New editions of these codes and standards are published every three years. Each edition of Standard 90.1 is assessed for its energy savings compared to the previous edition, while maintaining cost effectiveness and providing return on investment.¹

¹ U.S. Department of Energy, State Energy Code Methodology, 2026: <https://www.energycodes.gov/status>

Failing to update the International Energy Conservation Code and ASHRAE Standard 90.1, *Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, on the standard three-year cycle would cause:

- State residents and building owners to lose out on the energy efficiency gains in subsequent editions of ASHRAE Standard 90.1;
- Less efficient buildings constructed to outdated standards that leave residents and building owners with higher utility bills;
- Greater difficulty meeting the state's 2030, 2040 and 2050 greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

In summary, ASHRAE respectfully opposes this legislation and requests the committee vote against advancing this bill to the floor.

Thank you for your consideration of ASHRAE's comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill McQuade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "M".

Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026