

2nd READING

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
PROPOSED ORDINANCE
No. 2026-11**

**AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT TO
CHAPTER 28
OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE BRISTOL TOWN CODE**

* * *

CHAPTER 28 – ZONING

* * *

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of Bristol, Rhode Island, that Chapter 28 of the Ordinances of the Town of Bristol be amended as follows:

* * *

ARTICLE I. – IN GENERAL

Sec. 28-1. Definitions

Amend as follows:

* * *

Short Term Rental means a building in which one or more dwelling units or rooms for sleeping are rented for lodging accommodations for periods of 31 consecutive days or less with or without the furnishing of meals and with the owner who is in charge and manages such rentals residing on said property at all times during the period of such rental. No more than six short-term renters, regardless of age, shall be allowed during any rental period irrespective of the number of dwelling units or rooms for sleeping that are contained in the building. Only one building on a lot or parcel of land shall be allowed a short-term rental use. All short-term rentals must be registered in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-63.1-14, as amended.

* * *

ARTICLE III. – PERMITTED USES

* * *

Sec. 28-82. Use Regulations

Amend the Permitted Use Table as Follows:

ZONING DISTRICTS	R-80	R-40	R-20	R-15	R-10 R-10SW R-8	R-6	LB	GB	D	W†	M	OS	EI	HPC	MMU	PI
RESIDENTIAL																
<u>Short Term Rental</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>S*</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N</u>

* * *

ARTICLE V. – SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

* * *

Sec. 28-162. Short-Term Rentals.

- (a) Applicability. Short Term Rentals validly registered with the State of Rhode Island at the date of adoption of these standards shall be presumed to be legally non-conforming pre-existing uses and thus exempt from a special use permit and resident-occupancy requirements unless registration is not renewed with the Department of Business Regulation and allowed to lapse for a period greater than 365 consecutive days. After 365 consecutive days, the use shall be presumed to be abandoned, at which point a special use permit must be obtained restart operation. Abandonment may also be established by any other overt act or failure to act indicating an intent to abandon under applicable law.
- (b) Standards.
1. A special use permit shall be required for any property, lot or parcel hosting or advertising short term rentals for more than fourteen (14) total nights in a calendar year. A special use permit may be granted by the Zoning Board if all standards are met. Special use permits for Short Term Rentals shall be valid for three (3) years and may be renewed. The owner who is responsible for managing a short-term rental must reside on the same property, lot, or parcel during the entire duration of any short-term rental.
 2. The following requirements are conditions of any approved Special Use Permit and must be submitted to validate the approval:

- a. A valid Short Term Rental Registration with the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation shall be a condition subsequent for a special use permit.
- b. Valid home or commercial insurance policy covering short term rentals with coverage no less than \$1 Million shall be a condition subsequent to a special use permit.
3. No more than 5 Bedrooms shall be rented in total for short term rentals per property, lot, or parcel.
4. One off street parking spot per bedroom shall be required in addition to the minimum parking spaces already required for the building.
5. Any unit that is not a legal residential unit shall not be eligible for short-term rental.
6. The DBR registration number of the rental, property address and contact information for owner or resident manager must be posted conspicuously where it can be seen from a public street during rental periods in a manner prescribed by the Zoning Officer.

Properties, lots, or parcels hosting Short Term Rentals shall not be used or advertised in whole or in part as venues for events, parties, or functions. Short Term Rentals shall be used only for transient lodging accommodations as defined in these standards.

Secs. 28-1623—28-180. - Reserved.

* * *

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

The Town Council will be in session in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, on September 16, 2026. If remonstrance in the meantime, a petition bearing the valid signatures of at least twenty (20) qualified voters must be filed with the Town Clerk requesting a Public Hearing, such hearing must be held before final action may be taken on said ordinance.

By Order of the Town Council
Melissa Cordeiro
COUNCIL CLERK

August 20, 27 & September 3, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF BRISTOL PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS

The Bristol Town Council will hold a public hearing on September 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Bristol Town Hall, Council Chambers, 10 Court Street, Bristol, Rhode Island, for an amendment to the Bristol Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment would define and regulate short-term rentals and set forth the zones in which short-term rentals are permitted by special use permit. Short-term rentals would be prohibited in certain zones. Short-term rentals that are validly registered with the State of Rhode Island as of the adoption of the amendment would be defined as legally non-conforming pre-existing uses and thus exempt from local zoning requirements. The amendments would establish criteria for the granting of a special use permit for a short-term rental.

All interested parties may review and examine a copy of the proposed zoning amendment at the Bristol Town Clerk's Office, at 10 Court Street, and the Office of Community Development, at 35 Washington Street, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday – Friday. A copy of the proposed amendment can be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office at no cost.

The proposal shown here may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any such alteration of amendment must be presented for comment in the course of said hearing.

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hard of hearing must notify the Town Clerk's Office at 253-7000, 72 hours in advance.

Per Order of the Town Council
Melissa Cordeiro
Council Clerk
August 20, 27 & September 3, 2026

TOWN OF BRISTOL

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS

The Bristol Town Council will hold a public hearing on September 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Bristol Town Hall, Council Chambers, 10 Court Street, Bristol, Rhode Island, for an amendment to the Bristol Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment would define and regulate short-term rentals and set forth the zones in which short-term rentals are permitted by special use permit. Short-term rentals would be prohibited in certain zones. Short-term rentals that are validly registered with the State of Rhode Island as of the adoption of the amendment would be defined as legally non-conforming pre-existing uses and thus exempt from local zoning requirements. The amendments would establish criteria for the granting of a special use permit for a short-term rental.

All interested parties may review and examine a copy of the proposed zoning amendment at the Bristol Town Clerk's Office, at 10 Court Street, and the Office of Community Development, at 35 Washington Street, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday – Friday. A copy of the proposed amendment can be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office at no cost.

The proposal shown here may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any such alteration of amendment must be presented for comment in the course of said hearing.

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hard of hearing must notify the Town Clerk's Office at 253-7000, 72 hours in advance.

Per Order of the Town Council
Melissa Cordeiro
Council Clerk

August 20th & 27th & September 3rd, 2026