

**2021 -- S 0654 SUBSTITUTE A**

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LC002491/SUB A/2  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021**

**A N A C T**

**RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- SMALL BUSINESSES -- ZONING ORDINANCES**

Introduced By: Senators DiMario, Valverde, Kallman, Raptakis, Murray, Pearson,  
Quezada, and Mendes

Date Introduced: March 18, 2021

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 45-24 of the General Laws entitled "Zoning Ordinances" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **45-24-46.5. Special provisions -- Emergency declaration modifications.**

4           (a) A moratorium is hereby imposed on the enforcement of any municipal ordinance or  
5 zoning regulation that would penalize any food business or food service establishment, as defined  
6 in § 21-27-1, or bar as defined in § 23-20.10-2, for any alterations or modifications to its business  
7 made in order to comply with any directives, executive orders or restrictions issued by the governor,  
8 principal executive officer of a political subdivision or the director of the department of health  
9 based upon an emergency declaration issued pursuant to §§ 30-15-9 or 30-15-13.

10          (b) The moratorium imposed pursuant to this section shall continue throughout the  
11 emergency declaration and shall remain effective until April 1, 2022. During this period, all  
12 approved nonconforming uses adopted to comply with the emergency declaration shall be  
13 permitted to continue.

14          SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- SMALL BUSINESSES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

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1           This act would impose a moratorium on the enforcement of any municipal ordinance or  
2 zoning requirement that would penalize owners of food service establishments and bars for any  
3 modifications or alternations to their premises in response to an emergency declaration by the  
4 governor or local municipal officials. The moratorium would be effective until April 1, 2022.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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