

The Agency

Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review

Agency Operations

The Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal & Review and the Joint Committee on the Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings and Structures are charged with the development and administrative review of comprehensive construction and safety codes covering the State of Rhode Island. Both Boards provide interpretations of, and hear all variance requests, under their respective codes.

The State Fire Code, developed and administered by the board, covers specialized fire protection requirements for hazardous materials and chemicals, flammable and combustible liquids, liquefied petroleum gases, liquefied natural gases, fireworks, model rocketry, heating appliances, spray application of flammable and combustible liquids, welding, use of torches, dust explosion prevention, industrial ovens and furnaces, mechanical refrigeration, combustible fibers and airport refueling operations. In addition, the Fire Safety Code outlines the fire safety requirements of all assembly, educational, day-care, health-care, residential board and care, regulatory health care, detention, correctional, hotel, dormitory, apartment, rooming houses, mercantile, business, industrial, storage and airport occupancies in the State of Rhode Island. Finally, the Fire Code addresses electrical safety, smoking, outdoor fires, fire lanes, commercial cooking equipment, combustible waste, tar kettles, Christmas trees, blasting and explosives.

The State Rehabilitation Code is developed and administered by the Joint Committee. The Rehabilitation Code sets specialized standards, under both the building and fire code, for the repair, renovation, alteration, and reconstruction within, along with additions to and changes of use within, existing buildings and structures. Likewise, all appeals and requests for interpretation or variances under the Rehabilitation Code will be heard and determined by the Joint Board.

Agency Objectives

To develop and maintain a comprehensive fire safety code to protect the citizens of Rhode Island; to review and approve all state-of-the-art fire protection systems installed in Rhode Island; and to review the overall fire safety of each facility to come before the Board and to grant relief in cases of practical difficulty. To develop and maintain a comprehensive rehabilitation building and fire code to encourage the repair, renovation, alteration, and reconstruction of existing buildings in a cost efficient manner while assuring public safety.

Statutory History

The Fire Safety Code Commission was established in 1966 by Title 23, Chapter 28.3 of the Rhode Island General Laws. The statute was amended in 1975 to rename the commission as the Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review. The Joint Committee on the Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings and Structures was established in 2000 by Title 23, Chapter 29.1 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

The Budget

Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review

| | FY 2004 Actual | FY 2005 Actual | FY 2006 Revised | FY 2007 Recommended |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Expenditures By Object | | | | |
| Personnel | 193,208 | 216,674 | 240,483 | 251,476 |
| Other State Operations | 18,485 | 20,811 | 47,022 | 41,078 |
| Aid To Local Units Of Government | - | - | - | - |
| Assistance, Grants and Benefits | - | - | - | - |
| Subtotal: Operating Expenditures | \$211,693 | \$237,485 | \$287,505 | \$292,554 |
| Capital Improvements | - | - | - | - |
| Capital Debt Service | - | - | - | - |
| Total Expenditures | \$211,693 | \$237,485 | \$287,505 | \$292,554 |
| Expenditures By Funds | | | | |
| General Revenue | 211,693 | 237,485 | 287,505 | 292,554 |
| Total Expenditures | \$211,693 | \$237,485 | \$287,505 | \$292,554 |
| FTE Authorization | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.8 |
| Agency Measures | | | | |
| Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce | 33.0% | - | - | - |
| Females as a Percentage of the Workforce | 66.7% | 66.7% | 66.7% | 66.7% |
| Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce | 66.7% | 66.7% | 66.7% | 66.7% |