

**CHAPTER 27**  
**REGULATIONS GOVERNING ROOMING AND BOARDING HOUSES**

**Authority**

N.J.S.A 55:13B-4, 6 and 6.1.

**Source and Effective Date**

R.2005 d.404, effective October 24, 2005.  
See: 37 N.J.R. 566(a), 37 N.J.R. 4400(a).

**Chapter Expiration Date**

Chapter 27, Rooming and Boarding Houses, expires on October 24, 2010.

**Chapter Historical Note**

Chapter 27, Regulations Governing Room and Boarding Houses, was adopted as R.1980 d.376, effective August 28, 1980. See: 12 N.J.R. 452(a), 12 N.J.R. 569(b).

Chapter 27, Regulations Governing Room and Boarding Houses, was readopted as R.1985 d.350, effective June 14, 1985. See: 17 N.J.R. 341(b), 17 N.J.R. 1759(a).

Chapter 27, Regulations Governing Room and Boarding Houses, was readopted as R.1990 d.275, effective May 2, 1990. See: 21 N.J.R. 3871(a), 22 N.J.R. 1720(a).

Subchapter 2, Definitions, and Subchapter 4, General Building Requirements, and Subchapter 5, and Subchapter 6, Security, and Subchapter 7, Residents' Comfort, and Subchapter 8, Maintenance of Records, and Subchapter 9, Food and Laundry Services, and Subchapter 10, Other Personal Services, and Subchapter 11, Financial Services, were readopted as R.1985 d.350, effective June 14, 1985. See: 17 N.J.R. 341(b), 17 N.J.R. 1759(a).

Subchapter 5, was repealed by R.1988 d.572, effective December 19, 1988 (operative June 16, 1989). See: 20 N.J.R. 2126(a), 20 N.J.R. 3122().

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Subchapter 13, Additional Rules Regarding Persons with Alzheimer's Disease or Related Disorders or Other Forms of Dementia, was readopted as R.1998 d.298, effective July 6, 1998. See: 30 N.J.R. 509(a), 30 N.J.R. 2433(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Subchapter 14, Carbon Monoxide Alarms, was readopted as R.1999 d.259, effective August 16, 1999. See: 31 N.J.R. 825(a), 31 N.J.R. 2330(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 27, Regulations Governing Rooming and Boarding Houses, expired on May 2, 1995 and was subsequently readopted as new rules by R.1995 d. 280, effective May 12, 1995. See: 27 N.J.R. 1346(a), 27 N.J.R. 2188(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 27, Regulations Governing Rooming and Boarding Houses, was readopted as R.2000 d.231, effective May 9, 2000. See: 31 N.J.R. 3248(a), 32 N.J.R. 2049(a).

Chapter 27, Rooming and Boarding Houses, was readopted by R.2005 d.404, effective October 24, 2005. See: Source and Effective Date.

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**SUBCHAPTER 1. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

**5:27-1.1 Title**

This chapter, promulgated pursuant to N.J.S.A. 55:13B-1 et seq., shall be known and may be cited as the "Regulations Governing Rooming and Boarding Houses".

**Case Notes**

Boarding house operator was ineligible for license due to history of failing to comply with licensing laws. *Johnson v. Bureau of Rooming and Boarding House Standards*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 66.

**5:27-1.2 Purpose**

(a) This chapter is promulgated for the purpose of establishing standards to ensure that every rooming and boarding house in the State of New Jersey is constructed, maintained and operated in such a manner as will protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents and at the same time preserve and promote a home-like atmosphere appropriate to such facilities.

(b) The Bureau shall have discretion not to enforce any standard hereby established if it determines that strict compliance with such standard is not necessary in a particular case in order to accomplish the purpose set forth in (a) above.

(c) In the event that the Bureau determines that any rooming or boarding house, or any part thereof, because of its partial use for other than single room occupancy should more appropriately be evaluated under applicable standards contained in the regulations for the Maintenance of Hotels and Multiple Dwellings (N.J.A.C. 5:10), the Bureau shall have discretion to enforce the standards contained in N.J.A.C. 5:10 in lieu of the standards contained in N.J.A.C. 5:27-4, 5, and 6.

Amended by R.1981 d.359, effective October 8, 1981.  
See: 13 N.J.R. 393(a), 13 N.J.R. 704(c).  
(c) added.

**5:27-1.3 Administration and enforcement**

(a) The Bureau shall administer and enforce this chapter.

(b) The Bureau may authorize any municipality or county, through its appropriate housing, health or social services agencies, to perform inspections for the Bureau. Any authorization to perform inspections given to any municipality or county shall contain such terms and conditions as the Bureau may deem necessary and proper.

(c) The local enforcing agency, as the term is defined in N.J.A.C. 5:18, authorized to enforce the Uniform Fire Code in each municipality is hereby designated as the agent of the Bureau for the purpose of inspecting existing buildings in order to enforce all provisions of the Uniform Fire Safety Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-192 et seq., and the Uniform Fire Code, N.J.A.C. 5:18, applicable to rooming and boarding houses.

1. If, in the course of inspecting any rooming or boarding house, any inspector performing inspections for the Bureau finds any condition which is, or appears to be, in violation of the Uniform Fire Code, the inspector shall promptly give notice of such condition to the Bureau, which shall notify the Division of Fire Safety.

2. The maintenance requirements set forth in the Uniform Fire Code, N.J.A.C. 5:18, shall supersede the standards for fire safety set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:27-5, with regard to all boarding houses as of December 19, 1988 and shall be the sole fire safety maintenance requirements applicable to all rooming and boarding houses on and after June 16, 1989.

3. Any retrofit work required to be done in any rooming or boarding house shall be done in accordance with the Uniform Fire Code, N.J.A.C. 5:18. All buildings in compliance with the Uniform Fire Code shall be deemed to be in compliance with the fire safety standards set forth in this chapter.