

Residential Building Code Adoption Cycle Trends



Summary

As more states consider changing the length of their residential code adoption cycles, stakeholders may be interested in how other jurisdictions approach code updates. This resource provides an overview of the length of residential code adoption cycles in the United States based on legal requirements, as well as what states effectively practice. The analysis finds that most states do not have a legally mandated code cycle length and instead rely on the discretion of the adoption body. Among the states where historical code adoption data could be identified, the majority of effective code cycles exceeded 3 years. While the findings should be considered alongside the limitations of the data and methodology, this report offers a snapshot of current residential code adoption cycle trends.

Staff Contact:

Paul Karrer

Sr. Program Manager, Energy Codes & Standards

pkarrer@nahb.org

Author:

Yulia Miyajima

2026 Intern, CC&S

[ymiyajima@nahb.org](mailto:y Miyajima@nahb.org)

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Scope and Definitions

This review covers 52 states and regions: the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Throughout this report, “states” refers to this full set of 52 jurisdictions.

The following two categories are covered in the analysis:

- **Legally mandated code cycle length:** the adoption cycle length required or implied by statute, regulation, or another formal statewide requirement, where one could be identified.
- **Effective code cycle length:** the approximate cycle observed in practice based on statewide adoption history or, where statewide adoption is not applicable or not clearly mandated, the adoption histories of the two most populated local jurisdictions.

Methodology

Information was collected for each of the 52 states and can be found in the [Residential Code Adoption Cycle Data](#) section.

Because many legally mandated code cycles do not fall cleanly into fixed-year categories, some entries were sorted using approximations. For example, Massachusetts is categorized as having a 5-year legally mandated cycle, although the actual law requires that the state adopt a new code edition at least once every five years rather than on an exact five-year cycle.

For effective code cycle lengths, the methodology varied by state structure and data availability. For home-rule states, states without statewide residential codes, and states where no legislation mandating a cycle length could be found, the effective cycle was estimated by averaging the adoption cycles of the two most populated jurisdictions when sufficient historical information was available. For states with statewide codes, cycle lengths were either averaged across available adoption history or based on more recent cycles when recent adoption timing appeared more stable. Effective code cycle averages were calculated if at least three most recent consecutive adoption cycle years could be found; otherwise, no effective cycle was noted.

This approach is intended to identify broad patterns rather than produce definitive legal classifications. The effective cycle estimates should be treated as approximations, especially in states where local adoption authority or incomplete historical records limit comparability. Please refer to the [Residential Code Adoption Notes and Sources](#) section for sources and further details on how effective code cycle lengths were calculated.

Findings

Legally Mandated Code Cycle Lengths

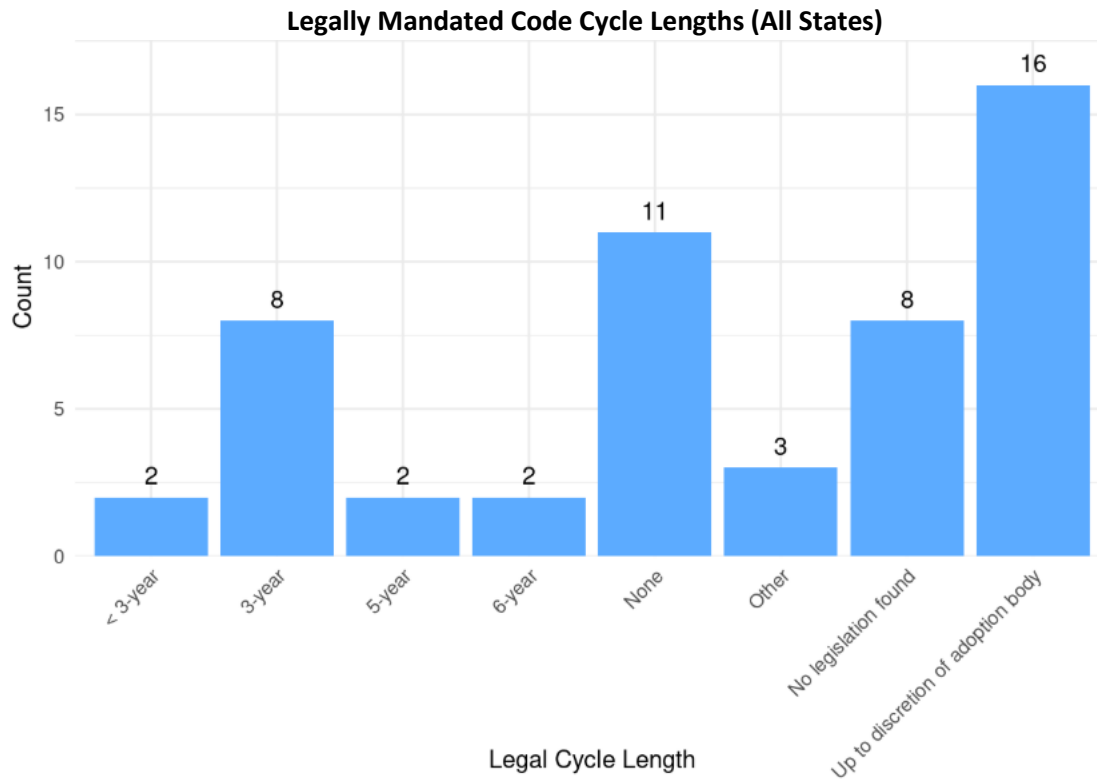


Figure 1. Legally mandated residential code adoption cycle lengths across 52 states.

The largest category for legally mandated cycles is “Up to discretion of adoption body,” followed by no statewide mandate, no legislation found, and 3-year mandates.

Since the data indicates that many states do not operate under a strict fixed-year statewide requirement, adoption timelines may be shaped more by adoption bodies and local implementation patterns.

Effective Code Cycle Lengths

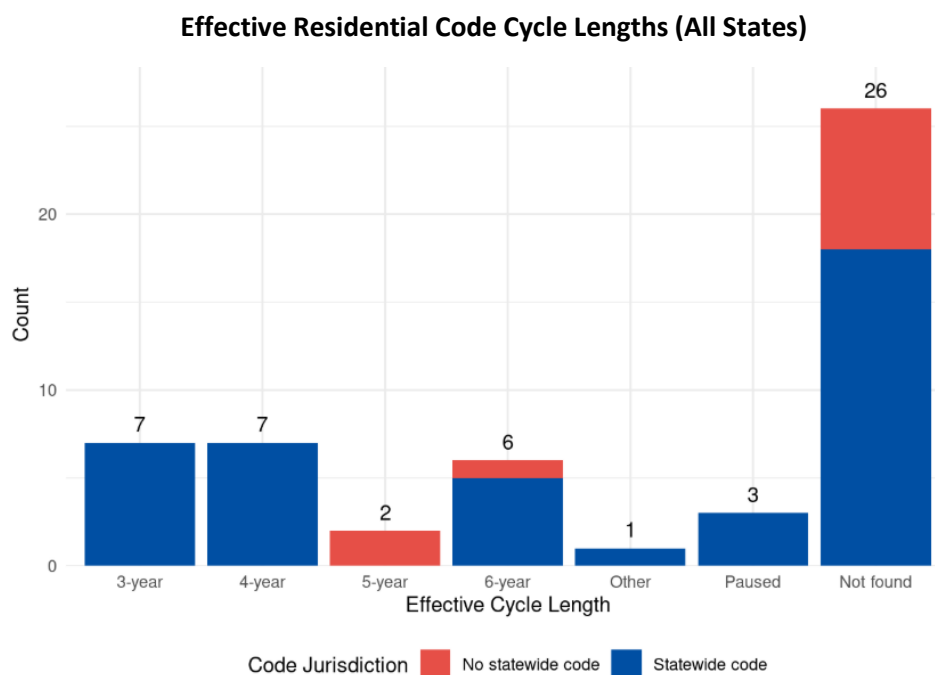


Figure 2. Effective residential code adoption cycle lengths across 52 states.

Across all 52 states, effective code cycle information was identified for 26 states. For the remaining 26 states, an effective code cycle was not found due to lack of information.

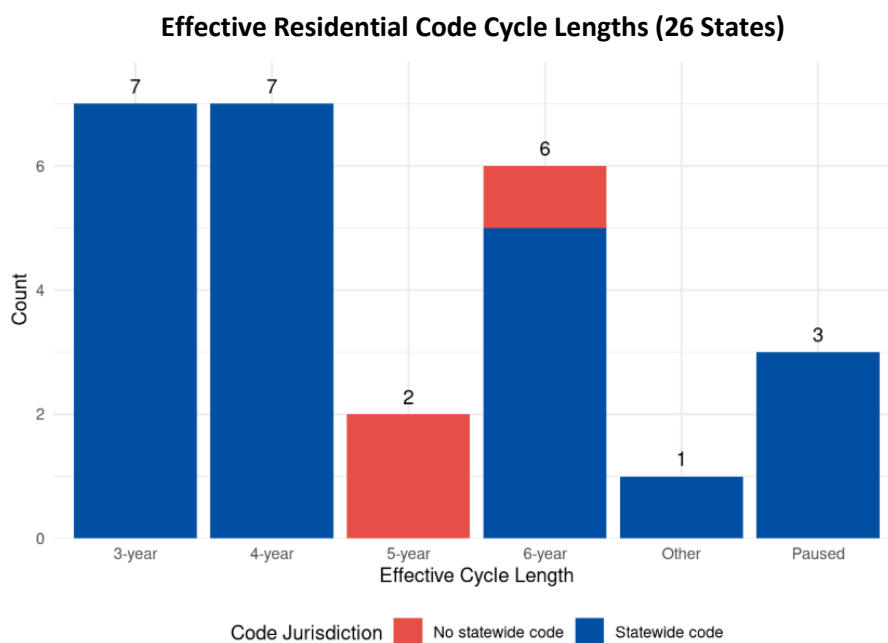
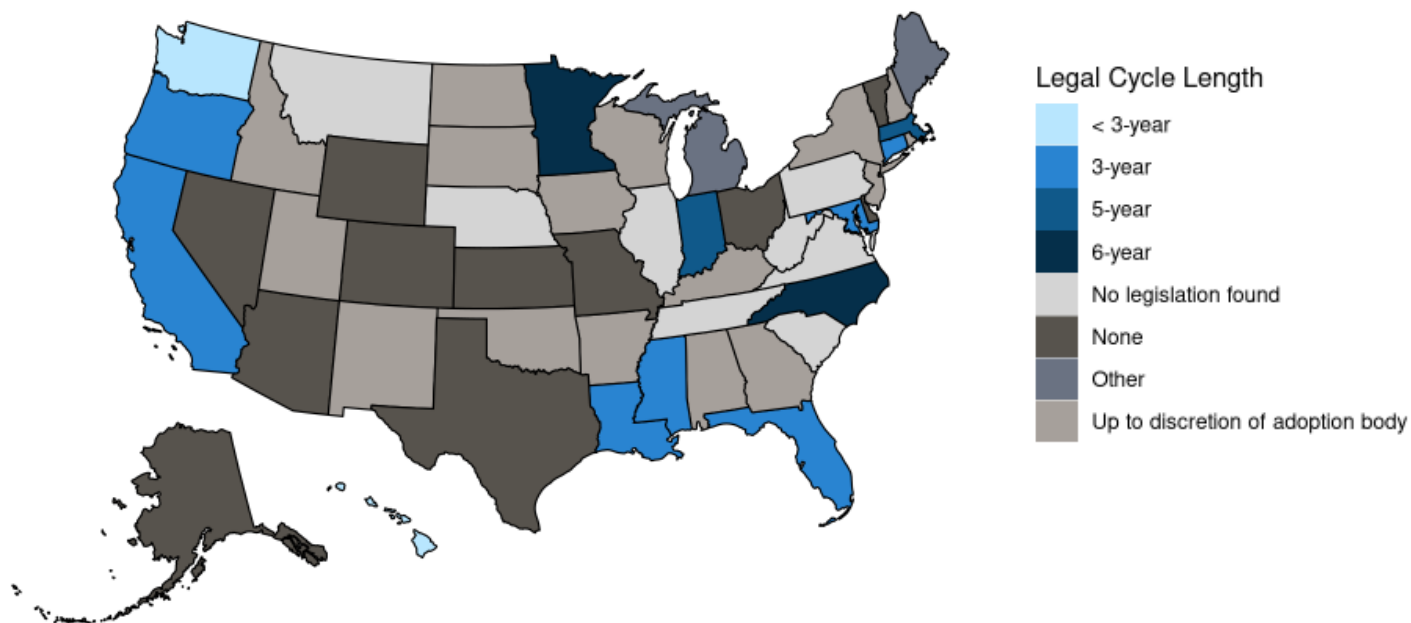


Figure 3. Effective residential code adoption cycle lengths among the 26 states where an effective cycle was identified.

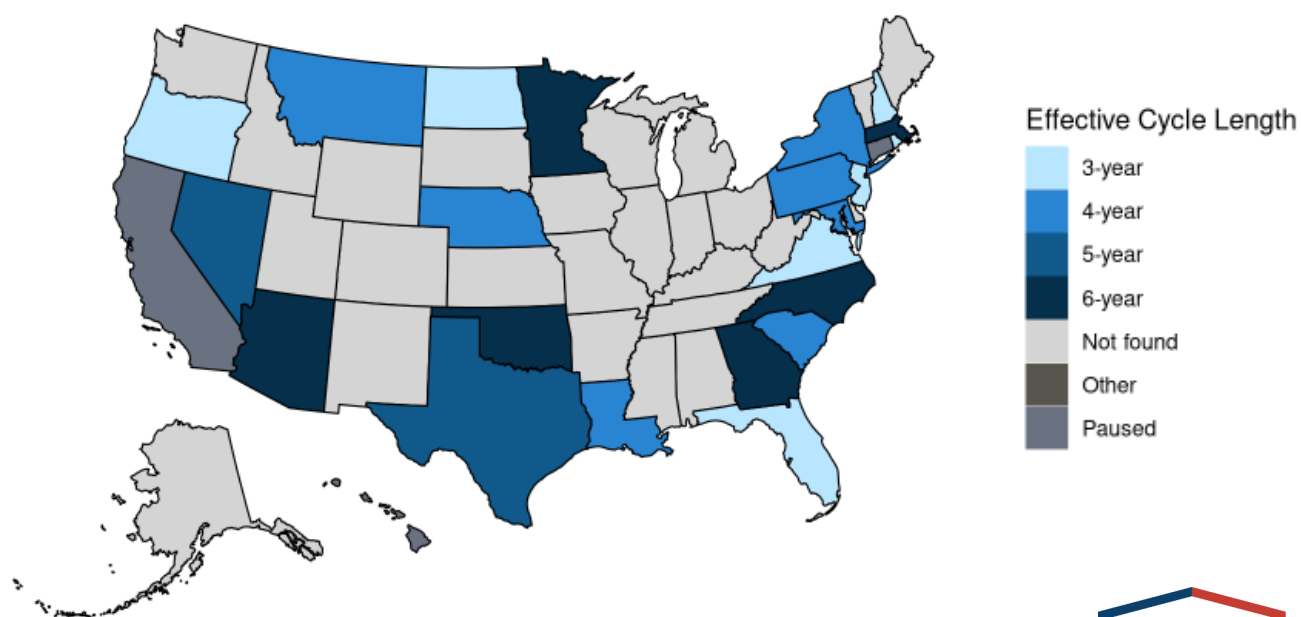
Figure 3 isolates the states where an effective code cycle was found for easier relative comparison. Notably, effective cycles longer than 3 years are not rare once the analysis is narrowed down to these states. Even though 6-year cycles are a small minority in the legally mandated data, they make up nearly one-quarter of the identified effective cycle set.

State Maps

Legally Mandated Cycle Length by State



Effective Cycle Length by State



Limitations

The data used to create this resource is not comprehensive. Some legislation or previous code adoption records may not have been located through the research process. For instance, for legal code cycle categories, “No legislation found” does not necessarily mean that no legal requirement exists; rather a clear requirement was not found.

Effective code cycle estimates are approximate. In home rule states and states without statewide residential codes, the estimates rely on select local jurisdiction histories that may not represent statewide practice.

Before using the findings and citing conclusions from this report, please read the [Residential Code Adoption Notes and Sources](#) and [Residential Code Adoption Cycle Data](#) sections below to fully understand the methodological limitations of categorization, effective code cycle estimates, and other specific details.

Because the methodology relies on both legal research and historical adoption patterns, the results may not be up to date as new code editions are adopted, moratoria expire, and state and local adoption authorities publish clearer historical records. Please refer to the [Last Updated](#) section for when this report and its data was last updated.

Conclusion

The analysis shows that many states do not have a strict legally mandated cycle length, and adoption is often left to the discretion of a state or local adoption body. Additionally, the number of states with 6-year effective code cycles is not insignificant, particularly when focusing only on states where an effective cycle could be identified. More broadly, many states appear to operate on effective cycles longer than 3 years, even when formal legal mandates do not explicitly require a longer cycle. However, effective cycles are also more difficult to measure consistently and may not be representative of statewide practice for home rule states, making comparisons less rigorous.

Resource Last Updated: July 2026

Data Last Updated: June 2026

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Additional Resources

Residential Code Adoption Notes and Sources

- **Alabama**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info
- **Alaska**
 - **Formal cycle:** None (home-rule)
 - **Effective cycle:** ~4.5 yrs (Anchorage: 3-yr then 6-yr cycle)
 - **Notes:** Alaska Housing Finance Corporation reviews codes every 3 years. HB 80 (2025) to adopt statewide residential code died.
 - **Source:** <https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/development-services/codes-handouts/Pages/codes.aspx>
- **Arizona**
 - **Formal cycle:** None (home-rule)
 - **Effective cycle:** ~5-6 yrs
 - **Notes:** Tucson and Pima County: 6-year cycle. Phoenix: ~5-year cycle.
 - **Source:** <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/Departments/Planning-Development-Services/PDSD-News/Updated-Building-Codes-Adopted-Effective-January-1>,
https://www.phoenix.gov/content/dam/phoenix/pddsit/documents/trt/external/dsd_trt_pdf_00550.pdf
- **Arkansas**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info
- **California**
 - **Formal cycle:** 3 years
 - **Effective cycle:** 3 yrs (paused)
 - **Notes:** AB 130: 6-year code pause until June 1, 2031, no changes to residential code, including at local level.
- **Colorado**
 - **Formal cycle:** None (home-rule)
 - **Effective cycle:**
 - **Notes:** Wide variation even within Metro Denver counties.
 - **Source:** <https://www.hbadenver.com/assets/pdf/HBA+2024+I-Code+Tracker01-20-2026/>
- **Connecticut**
 - **Formal cycle:** 6 years
 - **Effective cycle:** Moratorium
 - **Notes:** HB 5401 (2026): 6-year moratorium until 2030 codes; adoption becomes 2 years after latest codes are published.

- **Delaware**
 - **Formal cycle:** None (home-rule)
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info
 - **Notes:** Only two previous code adoptions found for Wilmington (2014, 2019).
- **District of Columbia**
 - **Formal cycle:** Unknown
 - **Effective cycle:** ~4 yrs (2013, 2017)
 - **Notes:** DC recently changed adoption body to Department of Buildings; limited cycle history available.
- **Florida**
 - **Formal cycle:** 3 years
 - **Effective cycle:** 3 yrs
 - **Notes:** HB 1021 (2017) mandated 3-year cycle; was effectively 3-year cycle before then.
- **Georgia**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** ~6 yrs
 - **Source:** <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:054b727a-ca83-4814-b067-640c575e2ea8>
- **Hawaii**
 - **Formal cycle:** < 3 years
 - **Effective cycle:** ~2 yrs
 - **Notes:** Rolling adoption with 2-year cap. HB 1725 (2026) to adopt 6-year cycle died. Governor's 15th Emergency Proclamation temporarily pauses new code adoption.
- **Idaho**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info
 - **Notes:** Has only adopted IRC once (2018 IRC in 2020).
- **Illinois**
 - **Formal cycle:** None (home-rule)
 - **Effective cycle:** ~9 yrs (Aurora)
 - **Notes:** Chicago is modernizing codes. Aurora: ~9-year cycle.
 - **Source:** https://www.aurora.il.us/files/sharedassets/mainsite/v/1/development-services/documents/one-and-two-family-residential-building-code-history_201805161408356161.pdf
- **Indiana**
 - **Formal cycle:** 5 years
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info (only one adoption found: 2020)
 - **Notes:** Must adopt ≥5 years after latest code's publication; max 3 codes per year at adoption body's discretion.

- **Iowa**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info
 - **Notes:** Could not find info on previous adoption cycles (only found 2014, 2025).
- **Kansas**
 - **Formal cycle:** None (home-rule)
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info
 - **Notes:** Could not find previous IRC adoptions for Wichita-Sedgwick County or Overland Park.
- **Kentucky**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info
 - **Notes:** Could not find info on previous adoption cycles (most recent: 2018); seems to be on a 3-year code review cycle.
- **Louisiana**
 - **Formal cycle:** 3 years
 - **Effective cycle:** ~4 yrs
 - **Notes:** HB 571 (2022): allows emergency extension of up to one year (likely response to COVID).
 - **Source:** https://lsuccc.la/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/LSUCCC_Louisiana-Construction-Code-Information.pdf
- **Maine**
 - **Formal cycle:** Other
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info
 - **Notes:** Must be on latest or one edition before (~3 years). Could not find info on previous adoptions.
- **Maryland**
 - **Formal cycle:** 3 years
 - **Effective cycle:** ~4 yrs (recent two cycles)
 - **Notes:** Must adopt within 18 months of ICC release.
 - **Source:** <https://www.labor.maryland.gov/labor/build/buildcodeseffdates.shtml>
- **Massachusetts**
 - **Formal cycle:** 5 years
 - **Effective cycle:** ~6 yrs (recent two cycles)
 - **Notes:** Must adopt at least once every 5 years. Varied widely before recent cycles.
 - **Source:** <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/dates-and-editions-of-massachusetts-building-code-780-cmr>
- **Michigan**
 - **Formal cycle:** 3–6 years
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info (only 2016 found)
 - **Notes:** HBA of Michigan in lawsuit with LARA to block adoption of 2021 IRC.

- **Minnesota**
 - **Formal cycle:** 6 years
 - **Effective cycle:** ~6 yrs (2003, 2007, 2015, 2020)
 - **Source:** <https://www.otsego.mn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/122/Effective-Dates-of-MN-State-Building-Codes-PDF>
- **Mississippi**
 - **Formal cycle:** None (home-rule; 3 yrs coastal)
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info
 - **Notes:** Coastal counties required to adopt state code due to hurricane/wind risk. MBCC adopts on 3-year cycle but local adoption is optional inland.
 - **Source:** <https://www.iccsafe.org/advocacy/adoptions-map/mississippi/>
- **Missouri**
 - **Formal cycle:** None (home-rule)
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info
 - **Notes:** Not enough info from Kansas City, St. Louis. Website below claims 6-year effective cycle, but does not give any sources.
 - **Source:** <https://mocities.com/common/Uploaded%20files/MML%20Review/March%20Review/March%202025/FAQ%20Building%20Codes.pdf>
- **Montana**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** ~4 yrs (shortening; most recent: 2 yrs)
 - **Notes:** See historical versions of rule below for past effective dates.
 - **Source:** <https://rules.mt.gov/browse/collections/aec52c46-128e-4279-9068-8af5d5432d74/policies/c87f5c5c-3f57-4729-ab68-ec2dd95b9ba7?versionNumber=486d8ed9-5b2d-4d9a-99d2-653ae9aed14c>
- **Nebraska**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** ~4 yrs (2003, 2011, 2015, 2019)
 - **Notes:** Links to previous adoptions at bottom of statute page.
 - **Source:** <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=71-6403>
- **Nevada**
 - **Formal cycle:** None (home-rule)
 - **Effective cycle:** ~4 yrs (Las Vegas)
 - **Notes:** Northern Nevada: 6-year cycle per local review. Las Vegas: ~4-year cycle.
 - **Source:** <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:1fd4691f-bef2-48a7-9357-30bb9fe81679>, <https://files.lasvegasnevada.gov/building-safety/City-of-Las-Vegas-Code-Adoption-Historical-Information.pdf>

- **New Hampshire**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** ~3 yrs (2006, 2007, 2010, 2019, 2022, 2024)
 - **Notes:** Last two cycles were 3 and 2 years.
 - **Source:** <https://www.firemarshal.dos.nh.gov/laws-rules-regulatory/state-building-code/historical-adoption-dates-nh-state-building-code>
- **New Jersey**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** ~3 yrs (2003, 2007, 2010, 2015, 2019, 2022)
 - **Source:** https://www.nj.gov/dca/codes/codreg/pdf_regs_former/NJ_Model_Code_Adoptions.pdf
- **New Mexico**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info (2016, 2023)
 - **Notes:** Website below claims 3-year effective cycle but does not give any sources.
 - **Source:** <https://bcapcodes.org/code-status/state/new-mexico/>
- **New York**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** ~4 yrs (2003, 2007, 2010, 2016, 2020, 2025)
 - **Source:** <https://dos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2019/05/2019-05%20Final.pdf>
- **North Carolina**
 - **Formal cycle:** 6 years
 - **Effective cycle:** ~6 yrs (2009, 2012, 2018)
 - **Notes:** Becomes 6-year cycle in 2031.
 - **Source:** <https://www.ncosfm.gov/codes/codes-current-and-past>
- **North Dakota**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** 3 yrs (very consistent: 2001–2022)
 - **Notes:** See pp. 3–4 of state building code book.
 - **Source:** <https://www.commerce.nd.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Community%20Services/Building%20Codes/2023%20North%20Dakota%20State%20Building%20Code%20Book.pdf>
- **Ohio**
 - **Formal cycle:** None (home-rule)
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info (IRC adoptions not found)
 - **Notes:** May be inferable from other I-Code adoption history below.
 - **Source:** https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/com.ohio.gov/documents/bbst_BBSAbout.pdf

- **Oklahoma**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** ~6 yrs (2011, 2016, 2022)
 - **Source:** <https://oklahoma.gov/oubcc/commission/history.html>
- **Oregon**
 - **Formal cycle:** 3 years
 - **Effective cycle:** ~3 yrs (2003, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017, 2021, 2023)
 - **Source:** <https://www.oregon.gov/bcd/codes-stand/Pages/codebook-history.aspx>
- **Pennsylvania**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** ~4 yrs avg (2012, 2015, 2022, 2025)
 - **Source:** <https://up.codes/codes/pennsylvania?type=Residential+Code>
- **Puerto Rico**
 - **Formal cycle:** 3 years
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info (2011, 2018?)
 - **Notes:** Must review codes at least every 3 years from adoption date.
 - **Source:** <https://bvirtualogp.pr.gov/ogp/Bvirtual/leyesreferencia/PDF/2-ingles/0109-2018.pdf>
- **Rhode Island**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** 3 yrs (from 2 most recent cycles), (2002, 2004, 2007, 2013, 2019, 2022, 2025)
 - **Source:** <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/510-00-00-2>
- **South Carolina**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** ~4 yrs avg (2002, 2005, 2008, 2013, 2016, 2020, 2023, 2027)
 - **Source:** <https://llr.sc.gov/bcc/PDFfiles/Building%20Codes%20in%20Effect%20for%20South%20Carolina%20Final.pdf>
- **South Dakota**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info
 - **Notes:** Could not find enough info for Sioux Falls or Rapid City.
- **Tennessee**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info (Only two previous adoptions: 2010, 2020)
 - **Source:** <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/codes-enforcement/history.html#:~:text=IPMC-,IRC,-SBC>

- **Texas**
 - **Formal cycle:** None (home-rule)
 - **Effective cycle:** ~5 yrs
 - **Notes:** Houston: ~5-yr avg (2006, 2012, 2015). San Antonio: ~5-yr avg (2018, 2023, 2025).
 - **Source:** <https://www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/houston-code-archive>, <https://up.codes/codes/san-antonio?type=Residential+Code>
- **Utah**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info (2002, ..., 2016, 2023; gap in data)
 - **Source:** <https://ussc.utah.gov/pages/download.php?direct=1&noattach=true&ref=1873&ext=pdf>, <https://up.codes/codes/utah?type=Residential+Code>
- **Vermont**
 - **Formal cycle:** No statewide residential code
 - **Effective cycle:** N/A
- **Virginia**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** ~3 yrs
- **Washington**
 - **Formal cycle:** 3 years
 - **Effective cycle:** ~3 yrs (2004, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2021)
 - **Notes:** Council must act no later than 30 months after ICC publication.
 - **Source:** <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=19.27.031>, <https://sbcc.wa.gov/about-sbcc/history/timeline-statewide-codes-adopted-washington>
- **West Virginia**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info (2020, 2022 only found)
 - **Source:** https://up.codes/codes/west_virginia?type=Residential+Code
- **Wisconsin**
 - **Formal cycle:** None
 - **Effective cycle:**
 - **Notes:** Every 6 years the Uniform Dwelling Code council prepares a review report.
 - **Source:** <https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/CodeArchives.aspx>
- **Wyoming**
 - **Formal cycle:** No statewide residential code
 - **Effective cycle:** Not enough info
 - **Notes:** Not enough info found for Cheyenne or Casper.

Residential Code Adoption Cycle Data

State	Legally Mandated Code Cycle	Effective Code Cycle	Code Cycle Legislation	Trend Direction of Adoption Cycle Length in Past Ten Years	Notes
Alabama	Up to discretion of adoption body				Most populated areas (Huntsville, Mobile) seem to be on very old IRC editions
Alaska	None				
Arizona	None	6-year			Effective cycle based off of Phoenix and Tucson
Arkansas	Up to discretion of adoption body				Little Rock adopts state residential code, which only has 2012 and 2021 versions
California	3-year	PAUSED	AB 130 (2026): code pause until June 1, 2031 preventing any changes to residential code (including at the local level)		
Colorado	None				
Connecticut	3-year	PAUSED	HB 5401 (2026): code pause until 2030 IRC review		
Delaware	None				
District of Columbia	Other	Other			DC recently changed their adoption body to the Department of Buildings, so limited information is available on their website on adoption cycle
Florida	3-year	3-year		No change	
Georgia	Up to discretion of adoption body	6-year		No change	
Hawaii	< 3-year	PAUSED	HB 1725 (2026): adopt a 6-year cycle; died		The Governor's 15th Emergency Proclamation Relating to Affordable Housing (EP): temporarily pauses the adoption of new codes
Idaho	Up to discretion of adoption body				
Illinois	No legislation found				
Indiana	5-year				Adopt >= 5 years after latest code's publication date; adopt maximum 3 codes per year at adoption body's discretion
Iowa	Up to discretion of adoption body				
Kansas	None				
Kentucky	Up to discretion of adoption body				
Louisiana	3-year	4-year	HB 571 (2022): added a provision allowing an emergency extension of adoption cycle by up to one year (most likely in response to COVID)	Longer cycle	
Maine	Other				Must be on the latest or one edition before (approx. 3 years?)
Maryland	3-year	4-year		No change	
Massachusetts	5-year	6-year			At least once every 5 years

State	Legally Mandated Code Cycle	Effective Code Cycle	Code Cycle Legislation	Trend Direction of Adoption Cycle Length in Past Ten Years	Notes
Michigan	Other				Between 3 to 6 years
Minnesota	6-year	6-year		Shorter cycle	
Mississippi	3-year				3-year cycle for coastal counties
Missouri	None				
Montana	No legislation found	4-year		Shorter cycle	
Nebraska	No legislation found	4-year		No change	
Nevada	None	4-year		No change	Northern Nevada: 6-year cycle per local review. Las Vegas: ~4-year cycle.
New Hampshire	Up to discretion of adoption body	3-year		Shorter cycle	
New Jersey	Up to discretion of adoption body	3-year		Shorter cycle	
New Mexico	Up to discretion of adoption body				
New York	Up to discretion of adoption body	4-year		Longer cycle	
North Carolina	6-year	6-year		Longer cycle	Becomes 6-year cycle in 2031
North Dakota	Up to discretion of adoption body	3-year		No change	
Ohio	None				
Oklahoma	Up to discretion of adoption body	6-year		Longer cycle	
Oregon	3-year	3-year		No change	
Pennsylvania	No legislation found	4-year		Shorter cycle	
Puerto Rico	3-year				
Rhode Island	Up to discretion of adoption body	3-year		Shorter cycle	
South Carolina	No legislation found	4-year		No change	
South Dakota	Up to discretion of adoption body				
Tennessee	No legislation found				
Texas	None	5-year			Houston, San Antonio have ~5-year effective code cycles on average
Utah	Up to discretion of adoption body				
Vermont	None				
Virginia	No legislation found	3-year			
Washington	< 3-year				
West Virginia	No legislation found				
Wisconsin	Up to discretion of adoption body				"Every 6 years, the uniform dwelling code council shall prepare a report [reviewing residential codes]"
Wyoming	None				