

Order 202-13/14

Passage: 9-0 on 4/28/2014

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**CITY OF PORTLAND  
IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

Effective 5/28/2014

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**AMENDMENT TO PORTLAND CITY CODE  
CHAPTER 14. LAND USE  
ARTICLE III. Zoning,  
DIVISION 25. Space and Bulk Regulations and Exceptions,  
Section 14-433**

**Re: Allowing Accessory Structures in R-3 and R-5 Zones to be  
Converted to Dwelling Units Without Meeting Setback Requirements**

**I. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND,  
MAINE IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED AS FOLLOWS:**

*1. That Chapter 14, Article III, Division 25. Space and Bulk  
Regulations and Exceptions, Section 14-433 of the Portland City  
Code is hereby amended to read as follows:*

**Sec. 14-433. Lots of record and accessory structure setbacks for  
existing buildings.**

Any lot of record as of June 5, 1957, and held under separate and distinct ownership from adjacent lots and having a street frontage of forty (40) feet, or to which a means of access has been previously approved by the city council as provided elsewhere in this article, may be considered a buildable lot in any residential zone except as provided below for island residential zones, with a minimum lot size of five thousand (5,000) square feet, except that a lot in the R-6 zone may have a minimum lot size of three thousand (3,000) square feet, provided that the applicable yard dimensions can be met.

A lot in the R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-5A or R-6 zones that was described in a subdivision plat approved by the Planning Board after June 5, 1981, or a lot of record that conformed to the applicable lot size requirement, lot width and street frontage as of June 5, 1984, shall be considered a buildable lot, provided that the applicable yard dimensions can be met.

Where such a lot has a principal structure which existed as

of July 19, 1988, an accessory structure or building addition may be located within the following side and rear yards, provided that the normal applicable yard requirements cannot be met provided, however, that less restrictive zoning requirements which meet the requirements contained within 14-139(b) for residential small lot development shall apply:

a. R-1, R-2:

Rear yard: Ten (10) feet.

Side yard: Five (5) feet.

b. R-3, R-4, R-5, R-5A, R-6:

Rear yard: Five (5) feet.

Side yard: Five (5) feet.

Any detached or accessory structure in the R-3, R-4, R-5 or R-6 zones, with a ground coverage exceeding two hundred fifty (250) square feet and which was in existence on January 1, 1940, may be converted to dwelling uses—units without meeting front, side or rear yearyard setbacks, provided there is no enlargement of any nonconforming portion of the existing building footprint and provided the conversion will conform to the minimum land area per dwelling unit.

Any such conversion in the R-3 zone or on a nonconforming lot in the R-5 zone shall be a conditional use subject to the requirements of section 14-88(a)2 for lots in the R-3 zone, or to the requirements of section 14-118(a)5 for nonconforming lots in the R-5 zone, and shall be in lieu of any additional dwelling units authorized under sections 14-88 or 14-118.

Any lot of record as of July 15, 1985, and held under separate and distinct ownership from adjacent lots and meeting the applicable street frontage requirements of that time may be considered a buildable lot in the IR-1 and IR-2 zones, provided that the applicable yard dimensions can be met and provided further that a lot in the IR-1 zone shall have a minimum area of ten thousand (10,000) square feet and a lot of the IR-2 zone shall have a minimum area of six thousand five hundred (6,500) square feet unless it is served by both public sewer and public water, in which case it shall have a minimum area of five thousand (5,000) square feet.

A lot in the IR-1, IR-2 and I-B zones that was described in a subdivision plat approved by the Planning Board after July 15, 1982, shall be considered a buildable lot, provided that the applicable yard dimensions can be met.