

2020 -- H 7208

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LC003268
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- STATE POLICE--DIVERSITY

Introduced By: Representatives Williams, Vella-Wilkinson, Cassar, Almeida, and Alzate

Date Introduced: January 22, 2020

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-28-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-28 entitled "State
2 Police" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-28-4. Composition of division.**

4 (a) There shall be a division of state police consisting of the following members: a
5 superintendent who shall have the rank of full colonel; as many captains as the superintendent
6 shall deem necessary, two lieutenant colonels, three majors; as many lieutenants as the
7 superintendent shall deem necessary; and such other personnel, the number and rank of whom
8 shall be designated by the superintendent, and the general assembly shall annually appropriate
9 such sum as it may deem necessary for the payment of the salaries of the members of the
10 division. The member of the Rhode Island state police who shall be assigned by the
11 superintendent to execute the duties of deputy superintendent shall have the rank of lieutenant
12 colonel.

13 (b) The ranks of the division of state police shall reflect the diversity of the community
14 which it serves. The superintendent of state police shall conduct a vigorous effort to recruit
15 persons of color to the Rhode Island state police training academy and shall utilize all forms of
16 media in this effort including, but not limited to, print and electronic media, radio, and television.
17 The recruitment effort required by this section shall include dissemination of information relating
18 to the selection and training process for admission to the Rhode Island state police training
19 academy.

1 (c) Beginning June 30, 2020, at least two (2) in every five (5) recruits attending the
2 Rhode Island State Police Training Academy shall be a person of color.

3 (d) Beginning June 30, 2021, at least two (2) in every five (5) new appointments to be
4 members of the state police shall be a member who is a person of color.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would require that beginning June 30, 2020, at least two (2) in every five (5)
2 recruits to the Rhode Island State Police Training Academy be a person of color and beginning
3 June 30, 2021, at least two (2) in every five (5) new appointments to the Rhode Island State
4 Police be a person of color. The act would also require the superintendent to conduct a vigorous
5 effort to recruit persons of color to the Rhode Island State Police Training Academy.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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