

2021 -- H 5290

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

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

Introduced By: Representatives Williams, Vella-Wilkinson, Alzate, Batista, and Giraldo

Date Introduced: January 29, 2021

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

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 Police"

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

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

18 (c) Beginning June 30, 2021, at least two (2) in every five (5) recruits attending the Rhode
19 Island state police training academy shall be persons of color.

1 (d) Beginning June 30, 2022, at least two (2) in every five (5) new appointments to be
2 members of the state police shall be persons of color.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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

1 This act would require that beginning June 30, 2021, 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, 2022, at least two (2) in every five (5) new appointments to the Rhode Island state police
4 be a person of color. The act would also require the superintendent to conduct a vigorous effort to
5 recruit persons of color to the Rhode Island state police training academy.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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