

2012 -- H 7531

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - NOTARY PUBLICS

Introduced By: Representatives San Bento, Petrarca, Nunes, Keable, and Gallison

Date Introduced: February 15, 2012

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 42-30-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-30 entitled "Notaries  
2 Public and Justices of the Peace" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **42-30-5. Application for appointment.** -- (a) Any qualified elector of this state desiring  
4 to be appointed a notary public, or a justice of the peace, shall make written application to the  
5 governor over his or her own signature, stating that he or she is a qualified elector who is an  
6 actual resident of the state of Rhode Island.

7           (b) Qualification as an elector of the state at the time of making application is to be  
8 certified to by a member of the board of canvassers and registration, in cities having such boards,  
9 or by the city or town clerk of the city or town in which the applicant claims a right to vote, and  
10 except for members of the bar of this state, the member of the board of canvassers and  
11 registration or the city or town clerk shall satisfy himself or herself that the applicant for  
12 appointment to the office of notary public or justice of the peace can speak, read, and write the  
13 English language and has sufficient knowledge of the powers and duties pertaining to that office.

14           (c) A member of the Rhode Island bar, [and certified public accountants under section 5-](#)  
15 [3.1-5](#), shall, regardless of residence, be appointed a notary public upon application and  
16 presentment of a certified copy of his or her certificate of admission to the bar [or certificate of](#)  
17 [public accountancy](#).

18           (d) Any such person making written application to be appointed a notary public or  
19 justice of the peace shall, at the time of application, pay to the secretary of state the sum of eighty

1 dollars (\$80.00).

2 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 allow certified public accountants to apply to become notary publics
- 2   regardless of residency.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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