

2013 -- H 5958

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LC02300
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CITIES AND TOWNS - THE CENTRAL COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT

Introduced By: Representative Patricia L. Morgan

Date Introduced: April 04, 2013

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. WHEREAS, The Central Coventry Fire District has been placed in
2 receivership by the Kent County Superior Court in a civil action which is presently pending in
3 said court; and

4 WHEREAS, The Court has ordered that the Central Coventry Fire District be liquidated;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, It is necessary to protect the health and safety of the citizens residing in the
7 Central Coventry Fire District; and

8 WHEREAS, The Court ordered that tax bills be mailed to the residents of the Central
9 Coventry Fire District in order to fund the operation of the fire district for the period commencing
10 September 1, 2012 and ending August 30, 2013, notwithstanding the fact that the residents of
11 such fire district had not approved a tax levy for said period; and

12 WHEREAS, There remains uncollected amounts from said mailing; and

13 WHEREAS, The Central Coventry Fire District is located entirely in the town of
14 Coventry; and

15 WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of the residents of the Central Coventry Fire District
16 in the town of Coventry that the town collect the balance due on the tax bills mailed to the
17 residents as ordered by the court, for the purpose of temporarily providing fire and EMT services
18 for said residents, in order that a permanent plan can be put into effect for providing such
19 services.

1 Now, therefore, it is hereby enacted as follows:

2 (1) The town of Coventry is hereby authorized and directed to collect the balance of all
3 uncollected amounts resulting from the mailing of tax bills to the residents of the Central
4 Coventry Fire District ordered by the Kent County Superior Court to fund the operation of the
5 Central Coventry Fire District until such time as a permanent plan can be adopted providing fire
6 and EMT services to the residents of the Central Coventry Fire District.

7 (2) Such mailing of tax bills ordered by the court shall constitute a tax levy upon the
8 property located and taxable in the Central Coventry Fire District.

9 (3) The town of Coventry shall use any amounts collected under paragraph (1) of this Act
10 to temporarily provide fire and EMT services to the residents of the Central Coventry Fire
11 District. The town of Coventry may contract with any independent entities in order to provide
12 said services.

13 (4) In no event shall the town of Coventry expend any sums in excess of the balance due
14 with respect to the tax levy set forth in subsection (2) of this Act.

15 SECTION 2. Pursuant to Article XII, section 4 of the Rhode Island Constitution, the
16 following question shall be submitted by the local board of canvassers to the qualified electors of
17 the Central Coventry Fire District in the town of Coventry at a special election to be scheduled by
18 the Coventry town council on or before June 1, 2013, and the results thereof shall be certified to
19 the secretary of state:

20 "Shall an act be approved which would authorize the town of Coventry to levy and then
21 collect the tax and/or the balance due of all uncollected amounts resulting from the mailing of tax
22 bills to the residents of the Central Coventry Fire District for the tax year commencing September
23 1, 2012 and ending August 30, 2013 for the purpose of funding the operation of the Central
24 Coventry Fire District up to and including September 1, 2013?"

25 SECTION 3. Sections 1 and 3 of this act shall take effect upon passage. Section 2 shall
26 take effect upon approval of the majority of the affected voters voting on said question.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO CITIES AND TOWNS - THE CENTRAL COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT

1 This act would authorize the Coventry town council to levy and collect taxes upon the
2 residents of the Central Coventry Fire District for fire and EMT services up to and including
3 September 1, 2013, subject to the approval of the qualified electors of the Central Coventry Fire
4 District at a special election to be scheduled on or before June 1, 2013 by the Coventry town
5 council.

6 Sections 1 and 3 of this act would take effect upon passage. Section 2 would take effect
7 upon approval of the majority of the affected voters voting on said question.

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