



1           **Section 5. Immunities of General Assembly members.** – The persons of all members  
2 of the general assembly shall be exempt from arrest and their estates from attachment in any civil  
3 action, during the session of the general assembly, and two days after the termination thereof, and  
4 all process served contrary hereto shall be void. For any speech in debate in either house, no  
5 member shall be questioned in any other place, except by the ethics commission as set forth in  
6 Article III, section 8 of the Constitution.

7           RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendment shall be submitted to the electors  
8 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election. The voting places in the  
9 several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours required by law for voting therein for  
10 general officers of the state; and be it further

11           RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the said proposition of amendment to  
12 be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the said  
13 meetings of the said electors; and the said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or notices  
14 to be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town, ward,  
15 or district meetings, and said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, or district meetings to  
16 be held as aforesaid; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That the town, ward, and district meetings to be held aforesaid shall be  
18 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and  
19 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,  
20 ward, and district meetings for the election of general officers of the state.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF  
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (ETHICS COMMISSION)

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1           This joint resolution would, if approved by the General Assembly, provide for a question  
2 to be submitted to the qualified electors to amend Article III, section 8 of the Rhode Island  
3 Constitution so as to give the Ethics Commission the power to adjudicate all alleged violations. It  
4 would also amend, if approved, Article VI, section 5, which would give the Ethics Commission  
5 the power to investigate and adjudicate violations during speech in debate in either house.

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