

**2016 -- H 8179**

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LC005926  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016**

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A N A C T

RELATING TO THE MERGER OF THE LONSDALE FIRE DISTRICT INTO THE  
SAYLESVILLE FIRE DISTRICT

Introduced By: Representatives O'Grady, and Ackerman

Date Introduced: May 06, 2016

Referred To: House Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. On June 1, 1882, the General Assembly adopted "An Act to Incorporate the  
2 Lonsdale Fire District, Prospect Hill." On April 27, 1931, section 1 of the 1882 act was amended  
3 by the General Assembly to change the original name of the fire district to the "Lonsdale Fire  
4 District." The 1882 act has since been amended many other times by the General Assembly.

5           SECTION 2. On March 23, 2016, the Lonsdale Board of Fire Wardens hereby  
6 unanimously adopted a resolution seeking General Assembly authorization to empower the  
7 electors of the Lonsdale Fire District to forfeit and abandon the charter of the Lonsdale Fire  
8 District to transfer the power and responsibility to provide fire protection services to the  
9 inhabitants in the area described in section 1 of the legislative charter of the Lonsdale Fire District  
10 adopted in 1882 and amended many times, to the Saylesville Fire District.

11           SECTION 3. The Lonsdale Fire District's Board of Fire Wardens is authorized to take  
12 whichever actions they deem appropriate to effectuate its dissolution as an independent entity and  
13 to merge its operations with the Saylesville Fire District in accordance with the districts'  
14 resolutions of their respective Boards of Fire Wardens upon approval by the electors of both  
15 districts. The Lonsdale Fire District's Board of Fire Wardens shall cause notice of the holding of  
16 any election undertaken by the Lonsdale Fire District pursuant to this act to be given to all  
17 electors of the district. Such notice shall be provided to the electors of the district by regular U.S.  
18 mail, at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of the election, and shall be mailed to the last

1 known address of each registered elector in the District. This notice shall include, at a minimum,  
2 the date, times, and polling location(s) of the election, as well as a copy of the text of the  
3 question(s) to be voted on by the electors. In addition, the Lonsdale Fire District's Board of Fire  
4 Wardens shall cause notice of the election to be published in a newspaper published on at least a  
5 weekly basis and distributed within the Lonsdale Fire District, and said notice shall be published  
6 at least twenty (20) days and then ten (10) days before the date of the election.

7 SECTION 4. The qualified electors of the Lonsdale Fire District are hereby authorized  
8 and empowered to vote to effectuate the dissolution of the Lonsdale Fire District as an  
9 independent entity and to merge its operations with the Saylesville Fire District in accordance  
10 with the resolutions adopted by the respective Boards of Fire Wardens. An affirmative vote of the  
11 electors of both the Saylesville Fire District and the Lonsdale Fire District are needed to  
12 effectuate the merger of the two (2) fire districts.

13 SECTION 5. On May 27, 1896 the General Assembly adopted "An act to incorporate the  
14 Saylesville Fire District." It was authorized to provide fire-related services for a geographically  
15 described area within the town of Lincoln. The 1896 act has since been amended many times by  
16 the General Assembly.

17 SECTION 6. On April 14, 2016, Saylesville Board of Fire Wardens adopted a resolution  
18 seeking General Assembly authorization to empower the electors of the Saylesville Fire District  
19 to increase the size of the Saylesville Fire District to increase the geographic bounds of their  
20 district and to authorize the Saylesville Board of Fire Wardens to take whatever actions it deems  
21 appropriate and necessary to:

22 (a) Accept the transfer of the assets from the Lonsdale Fire District; and

23 (b) Accept any pension liability determined as of the date of dissolution of the Lonsdale  
24 Fire District; and

25 (c) Accept the transfer of the encumbered real estate of the Lonsdale Fire District, subject  
26 to any of its mortgages; and

27 (d) Execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer of the Lonsdale  
28 Fire District's real estate and any encumbrance thereon.

29 SECTION 7. The Saylesville Fire District's Board of Fire Wardens is authorized to take  
30 whatever actions they deem appropriate to effectuate its acquisition of the Lonsdale Fire District,  
31 in accordance with the districts' resolutions of their respective Boards of Fire Wardens and upon  
32 approval by the electors of each district. The Saylesville Fire District's Board of Fire Wardens  
33 shall cause notice of the holding of any election undertaken by the Saylesville Fire District  
34 pursuant to this act to be given to all electors of the district. Such notice shall be provided to the

1 electors of the district by regular U.S. mail, at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of the  
2 election, and shall be mailed to the last known address of each registered elector in the District.  
3 This notice shall include, at a minimum, the date, times, and polling location(s) of the election, as  
4 well as a copy of the text of the question(s) to be voted on by the electors. In addition, the  
5 Saylesville Fire District's Board of Fire Wardens shall cause notice of the election to be published  
6 in a newspaper published on at least a weekly basis and distributed within the Saylesville Fire  
7 District, and said notice shall be published at least twenty (20) days and then ten (10) days before  
8 the date of the election.

9           SECTION 8. The qualified electors of the Saylesville Fire District are hereby authorized  
10 and empowered to vote to increase the geographical bounds of their district to include all the area  
11 that currently constitutes the Lonsdale Fire District and further described in section 1 of the 1896  
12 incorporation act, as amended, under the terms and conditions set forth in its Fire Wardens' April  
13 14, 2016, resolution.

14           SECTION 9. An affirmative vote of the electors of both the Saylesville Fire District and  
15 the Lonsdale Fire District shall be needed to effectuate the merger of the two (2) fire districts.

16           SECTION 10. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO THE MERGER OF THE LONSDALE FIRE DISTRICT INTO THE  
SAYLESVILLE FIRE DISTRICT

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1           This act would authorize the dissolution of the operation of the Lonsdale Fire District as  
2 an independent fire district and would transfer its responsibilities, assets and liabilities to the  
3 Saylesville Fire District upon the affirmative vote of the electors of both fire districts.

4           This act would require notice be given by the fire districts to the electors prior to the  
5 election.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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