

2016 -- H 8291

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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 ELECTIONS - ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY FOR VICTIMS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Introduced By: Representatives Tanzi, Keable, Fogarty, Maldonado, and Marcello

Date Introduced: June 03, 2016

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-28-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-28 entitled "Address
2 Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Violence" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-28-3. Address confidentiality program -- Application -- Certification. --** (a) An
4 adult person who is a victim of domestic violence and any member of his/her household may
5 apply to the secretary of state to have an address designated by the secretary of state serve as the
6 person's address. The secretary of state shall approve an application if it is filed in the manner and
7 on the form prescribed by the secretary of state and if it contains:

8 (1) A sworn statement by the applicant:

9 (i) That the applicant is a victim of domestic violence, as defined in § 17-28-2(c) of this
10 chapter;

11 (ii) That the applicant fears for his or her safety or his or her children's safety, or;

12 (iii) That the applicant resides in the same household as a victim of domestic violence, as
13 defined in subsection 17-28-2(c); and

14 (iv) That the individual who committed the domestic violence has knowledge that the
15 applicant lives in the same household as the victim of domestic violence, as defined in subsection
16 17-28-2(c).

17 (2) The mailing address where the applicant can be contacted by the secretary of state,
18 and the phone number or numbers where the applicant can be called by the secretary of state;

1 (3) The new address or addresses that the applicant requests not be disclosed for the
2 reason that disclosure will increase the risk of domestic violence;

3 (4) The signature of the applicant, and of any individual or representative of any office
4 designated in writing under § 17-28-6 who assisted in the preparation of the application, and the
5 date on which the applicant signed the application.

6 (b) Applications shall be filed with the office of the secretary of state.

7 (c) Upon filing a properly completed application, the secretary of state shall certify the
8 applicant as a program participant. Applicants shall ~~be~~ remain certified, ~~for four (4) years~~
9 ~~following the date of filing~~ unless the certification is withdrawn by the applicant or invalidated by
10 the secretary of state ~~before that date. The secretary of state shall establish by rule a renewal~~
11 ~~procedure.~~

12 (d) A person who falsely attests in an application that disclosure of the applicant's
13 address would endanger the applicant's safety or the safety of the applicant's children, or who
14 knowingly provides false or incorrect information upon making an application, shall be punished
15 by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500).

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY FOR VICTIMS OF
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1 This act would allow victims of domestic violence to have their addresses remain
2 confidential unless the certification is withdrawn by the applicant or invalidated by the secretary
3 of state.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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