

2021 -- H 5896

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - VOTER REGISTRATION CANCELLATION

Introduced By: Representatives Newberry, Filippi, Place, and Fenton-Fung

Date Introduced: February 24, 2021

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 17-9.1 of the General Laws entitled "Registration of Voters" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **17-9.1-26.1. Cancellation of voter registration.**

4 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 17-9.1-24, the secretary of state shall promulgate
5 regulations to identify and cancel the registration, in a prior city or town of residence of any
6 registrant, who changes the registrant's voting residence to a location outside the registrant's current
7 city or town of registration. Any procedures prescribed in this section shall be uniform and
8 nondiscriminatory, and shall comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The secretary of state
9 may prescribe procedures under this section that include the use of the national change of address
10 service, provided by the United States Postal Service, through its licensees. Any promulgated
11 regulations shall be completed not later than ninety (90) days prior to the date of any primary or
12 general election for federal office.

13 (b) The registration of any voter identified as having changed the voter's voting residence
14 to a location outside the voter's current city or town of registration, shall not be canceled unless the
15 registrant is sent a confirmation notice on a form prescribed by the secretary of state and the
16 registrant fails to respond to the confirmation notice or otherwise update the registration and fails
17 to vote in any election, during the period of two (2) federal elections subsequent to the mailing of
18 the confirmation notice.

1 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 require the secretary of state to promulgate regulations which identify and
2 cancel the voter registration, of any registrant that changes their residence to outside their city or
3 town, without notifying the proper authorities. Once a potential change of addresses is identified
4 and the registrant fails to respond to certified mail notice or update their registration and fails to
5 vote in any election during the period of two (2) federal elections, after being sent a confirmation
6 notice, their registration may be cancelled.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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