

2021 -- H 6316

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS

Introduced By: Representatives Fenton-Fung, Chippendale, Place, Filippi, and
McLaughlin

Date Introduced: May 07, 2021

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-20-12 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-20 entitled "Mail
2 Ballots" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-20-12. Secretary of state to furnish forms and supplies.**

4 [\(a\)](#) All mail ballots, application forms, certified envelopes for enclosing ballots, any other
5 envelopes that may be necessary, and instructions as to voting, use of ballots, and affidavits, shall
6 be furnished and supplied by the secretary of state for use in mailing application forms, ballots, and
7 other supplies to mail voters to carry out the provisions of this chapter, but each local board shall
8 print or stamp upon the application form and upon the return envelope the address of the local
9 board. The secretary of state is authorized to interpret and apply the provisions of this chapter in a
10 manner that effects the legislative intention set forth in this chapter.

11 [\(b\) All mail ballots must include a watermark, which is easily discernable for verification](#)
12 [purposes and approved by the board of elections.](#)

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS

1 This act would require the secretary of state to include on all mail ballots it provides, an
2 easily discernable watermark for verification purposes that is also approved by the board of
3 elections.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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