

2022 -- S 2216

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION - PERSONS ENTITLED TO VOTE

Introduced By: Senators DiMario, Euer, Lawson, Pearson, Murray, Burke, Coyne,
Kallman, Cano, and Valverde

Date Introduced: February 08, 2022

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general
2 assembly voting therefor, the following amendment to the Constitution of the state be proposed to
3 the qualified electors of the state in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of the
4 Constitution for their approval and that it take place of Article II, Section 1, it is hereby amended,
5 effective January 1, 2023, to read as follows:

6 Section 1. Persons entitled to vote. -- Every citizen of the United States of the age of
7 eighteen years or over who has had residence and home in this state for thirty days next preceding
8 the time of voting, who has resided thirty days in the town or city from which such citizen desires
9 to vote, and whose name shall be registered ~~at least thirty days next preceding the time of voting~~
10 as provided by law, shall have the right to vote for all offices to be elected and on all questions
11 submitted to the electors, except that no person who has been lawfully adjudicated to be non
12 compos mentis shall be permitted to vote. No person who is incarcerated in a correctional facility
13 upon a felony conviction shall be permitted to vote until such person is discharged from the
14 facility. Upon discharge, such person's right to vote shall be restored. The general assembly may
15 provide by law for shorter state and local residence requirements to vote for electors for president
16 and vice president of the United States.

17 RESOLVED, That this amendment shall take, in the Constitution of the state, the place of
18 SECTION 1, Article II, of the Constitution, effective January 1, 2023; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendment shall be submitted to the electors

1 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election. The voting places in the
2 several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours required by law for voting therein for
3 general offices of the state; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State shall cause the said proposition of amendment
5 to be published as a part of the resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the
6 said meetings of the said electors; and the said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or
7 notices to be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town,
8 ward, or district meetings, and said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, or district
9 meetings to be held as aforesaid; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the town, ward, and district meetings to be held as aforesaid shall be
11 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and
12 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,
13 ward, and district meetings for the elections 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

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- 1 This joint resolution would authorize the submission to the electors of a constitutional
- 2 amendment that would allow eligible citizens to register to vote removing the requirement that
- 3 the registration be completed thirty (30) days before an election.

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