

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE, PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS--A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIREMENT THROUGH INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING FOR GENERAL OFFICERS AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS' ELECTION)

Introduced By: Representatives Filippi, Mendonca, Roberts, Quattrocchi, and Price

Date Introduced: February 15, 2017

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, The proposed amendment to Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution of the
2 State is intended to resolve that successful candidates for state general officers and general
3 assembly seats receive a majority of votes cast.

4 RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general
5 assembly voting therefor, the following amendment to the Constitution of the State be proposed
6 to the qualified electors of the state in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of the
7 Constitution for their approval and that it take the place of Article IV, Section 2, which is hereby
8 amended, effective January 1, 2019, to read as follows:

9 ARTICLE IV

10 OF ELECTIONS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

11 Section 2. Election by majority or plurality. -- In all elections of general officers and
12 general assembly members, only those persons or candidates receiving a majority of the votes
13 cast shall be declared elected. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, then an instant
14 runoff voting system shall be employed to determine the winner of the election.

15 In all other elections held by the people for ~~state~~, city, town, ward or district officers, the
16 person or candidate receiving the largest number of votes cast shall be declared elected.

17 RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendments shall be submitted to the electors
18 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election. The voting places in the

1 several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours required by law for voting therein for
2 general officers of the state; and be if further

3 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the said proposition of amendments
4 to be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the
5 said meetings of the said electors and the said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, or
6 district meetings to be held as aforesaid; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the town, ward, and district meetings to be held aforesaid shall be
8 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and
9 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,
10 ward, and district meetings for the election of general officers of the state.

=====
LC000656
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

TO APPROVE, PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS--A PROPOSITION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (MAJORITY VOTE
REQUIREMENT THROUGH INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING FOR GENERAL OFFICERS
AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS' ELECTION)

- 1 This proposed amendment to the state constitution, if approved, would require that all
- 2 winning candidates for election to general office and to the general assembly receive a majority
- 3 of the votes cast. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, then an instant runoff
- 4 voting system would be employed to determine the winner of the election.

=====
LC000656
=====