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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - ELECTRONIC VOTER REGISTRATION

Introduced By: Representatives Marcello, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Finn, and Morgan

Date Introduced: February 26, 2014

Referred To: House Judiciary

(Secretary of State)

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 **17-9.1-34. Electronic registration of voters. --** (a) The state board of elections shall
4 establish and maintain a system for online voter registration. Such system shall also permit a
5 registered elector to apply for changes to such elector's registration. An applicant may register to
6 vote through this system, provided the applicant's registration information is verifiable in the
7 manner described in subsection (b) of this section, and his or her signature is in a database
8 described in subsection (b) such signature may be imported into such system for online voter
9 registration.

10 (b) A state agency, upon the request of the board of elections shall provide any
11 information the board of elections deems necessary to maintain the system for online voter
12 registration. The board of elections may cross reference the information input into the system by
13 applicants with data or information contained in any state agency's database or a database
14 administered by the federal government, or any voter registration database of another state, in
15 order to verify the information submitted by applicants. The board of elections shall not use the
16 information obtained from any such database except to verify information submitted by the
17 applicant, provided the applicant's signature, if part of data contained in the state agency's
18 database, shall be included as part of the applicant's information contained in the system for
19 online voter registration.

1 (c) The submission of an online application shall contain all of the information that is
2 required for an application under § 17-9.1-1, except that a signature shall be obtained from
3 another state agency's database pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

4 (d) In order for an applicant's registration or change in registration to be approved, the
5 applicant shall mark the box associated with the following statement included as part of the
6 online application:

7 "By clicking on the box below, I swear or affirm all of the following under penalty of
8 perjury:

9 (1) I am the person whose name and identifying information is provided on this form, and
10 I desire to register to vote in the state of Rhode Island.

11 (2) All of the information I have provided on this form is true and correct as of the date I
12 am submitting this form.

13 (3) I authorize the division of motor vehicles or other Rhode Island state agency to
14 transmit to the board of elections or my town's board of canvassers my signature that is on file
15 with such agency and understand that such signature will be used by the board of elections or my
16 city or town's board of canvassers on this online application for admission as an elector as if I had
17 signed this form personally."

18 (e) Upon approval of such application, the board of elections shall send a notice of
19 approval to the elector.

20 (f) If an applicant registers to vote pursuant to the provisions of this section after the
21 fourteenth (14th) day before an election or after the fifth (5th) day before a primary, the privileges
22 of an elector shall not attach until the day after such election or primary, as the case may be. In
23 such event, the board of elections may contact such applicant, either by telephone or mail, in
24 order to inform such applicant of the effect of such late received application and any applicable
25 deadline for applying for admission in person.

26 (g) The board of elections may enter into an agreement to share information or data with
27 any other state in order to maintain the voter registration system. If an agency of this state,
28 another state or the federal government provides the board of elections with information or data
29 to be used to maintain such system, the board of elections shall not use such information or data
30 for any purpose except to maintain such system and shall ensure that such information or data is
31 held confidential if such information or data, while in the possession of such other agency or state
32 or federal government, as applicable, was required to be held confidential.

33 (h) The board of elections may provide such information or data to a nonpartisan third-
34 party vendor for the purpose of maintaining the electronic voter registration system, provided

1 [such vendor's activities are performed under the supervision of the board of elections and such](#)
2 [vendor has entered into an agreement to protect the confidentiality of such information or data.](#)

3 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 - ELECTRONIC VOTER REGISTRATION

1 This act would authorize the state board of elections to create and administer an
2 electronic voter registration system.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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