

2011 -- H 5063

LC00097

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

JOINT RESOLUTION

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

Introduced By: Representatives Morgan, Brien, Palumbo, Chippendale, and Jacquard

Date Introduced: January 19, 2011

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 therefore, 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 the following section is hereby amended, effective January 1,  
8 2013, 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 a runoff  
14 election between the top two (2) vote-getters shall be held. The candidate receiving the largest  
15 number of votes cast in the runoff election shall be declared elected.

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

18 RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendments 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 officers of the state; and be if further

4           RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the said proposition of amendments  
5 to be published as a part of this 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 read by the town, ward, or  
7 district meetings to be held as a foresaid; and be it further

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

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