

2019 -- H 5139

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

Introduced By: Representatives Amore, O'Brien, Edwards, Blazejewski, and Cassar

Date Introduced: January 17, 2019

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 17-1-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-1 entitled "General  
2 Provisions" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **17-1-3. Eligibility to vote.**

4           (a) Every citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen (18) years of age, whose  
5 residence as defined in § 17-1-3.1 has been in this state for at least thirty (30) days, and in the  
6 town or city and voting district in which that person desires to cast his or her vote at least thirty  
7 (30) days next preceding the election, and who is registered in that city or town and voting district  
8 at least thirty (30) days next preceding any election, shall be entitled to vote in the election;  
9 provided, a person may vote in a primary election only if that person is eligible under the  
10 provisions of this title. A person who has not registered to vote, or whose registration has been  
11 canceled pursuant to § 17-10-1, may cast a vote for president and vice-president on election day  
12 at his or her city or town hall or at an alternate location designated by the board of canvassers,  
13 and approved by the board of elections, where such location is deemed necessary to better  
14 accommodate such voters. The casting of that vote shall commence the process of voter  
15 registration and subject the person voting to the requirements and penalties of this chapter.

16           (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any person who has  
17 not yet reached eighteen (18) years of age may vote in a primary election, in which candidates are  
18 nominated for a general or special election, that will occur when the individual is eighteen (18)  
19 years of age.

1 [\(c\) The provisions of subsection \(b\) of this section shall not extend to any other elections.](#)

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would allow individuals, who have not reached the age of eighteen (18) years, to  
2 vote in a primary election, as long as the voter will be eighteen (18) as of the date of the general  
3 or special election.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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