

2011 -- H 5409

LC00103

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: Representative Spencer E. Dickinson

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, The proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 2, of the Constitution of the  
2 State is intended to resolve that successful candidates for governor, and, in certain circumstances,  
3 for other state general officers 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. – (a) Except as provided in Article IV,  
12 sections 2 (b) and (c) of this constitution, in ~~H~~ all elections held by the people for state, city,  
13 town, ward or district officers, the person or candidate receiving the largest number of votes cast  
14 shall be declared elected.

15 (b) In elections for governor of the state, if no person receives a majority of the votes cast  
16 for governor, the board of elections shall declare that no person has been elected. A run-off  
17 election shall be held and the two (2) person who received the greatest number of votes for  
18 governor in the general election shall be the candidates in the run-off election. The person who

1 receives the major part of the votes in a run-off election shall be declared to be elected governor  
2 of the state. The procedure for determining the results for the vote for governor in the run-off  
3 election shall be the same as the procedure for determining the results of the vote in the general  
4 election.

5 (c) In elections for lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state and general  
6 treasurer, the person or candidate receiving the largest number of votes cast shall be declared  
7 elected; except, in election years when a run-off election for governor is required, a run-off  
8 election shall be held if no person receives a majority of the votes cast for lieutenant governor,  
9 attorney general, secretary of state or general treasurer. The two (2) persons who received the  
10 greatest number of votes in each of the general election contests for lieutenant governor, attorney  
11 general, secretary of state or general treasurer shall be the candidates in the run-off elections. The  
12 person who receives the greatest number of votes in the run-off election shall be declared to be  
13 elected to the office for which he or she sought election. The procedure for determining the  
14 results of the run-off election for lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state or  
15 general treasurer shall be the same as the procedure for determining the results of the vote in the  
16 general election.

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

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

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
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AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (MAJORITY VOTE  
REQUIREMENT FOR GENERAL OFFICERS' AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS'  
ELECTION)

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- 1 This amendment to the constitution of the state, if adopted, would provide for run-off
- 2 elections for governor and other general officers.

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