

2011 -- H 5443

LC00963

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE – COMPOSITION OF THE
HOUSE AND SENATE

Introduced By: Representative Spencer E. Dickinson

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, The following proposed amendments to Article VII and Article VIII of the
2 Constitution of the state are intended to have the collective effect of simplification of the
3 redistricting process and of allowing the electors to more easily identify and evaluate candidates
4 for the general assembly; and

5 WHEREAS, In order to accomplish this purpose the number of districts in the House of
6 Representatives must be increased by one; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general
8 assembly voting therefore, the following amendments to the Constitution of the state be proposed
9 to the qualified electors of the state in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of the
10 Constitution, for their approval and the following sections are hereby amended, effective on
11 January 1, 2013, to read as follows:

12 **ARTICLE VII**

13 **OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

14 **Section 1. Composition.** -- There shall be one hundred (100) members of the house of
15 representatives, provided, however, that commencing in 2003 there shall be seventy-five (75)
16 members of the house of representatives and commencing in 2013 there shall be seventy-six (76)
17 members of the house of representatives. The house of representatives shall be constituted on the
18 basis of population and the representative districts shall be as nearly equal in population and as
19 compact in territory as possible. The general assembly shall, after any new census taken by

1 authority of the United States, reapportion the representation to conform to the Constitution of the
2 state and the Constitution of the United States.

3 **ARTICLE VIII**
4 **OF THE SENATE**

5 **Section 1. Composition.** -- The senate shall consist of the lieutenant governor and fifty
6 (50) members from the senatorial districts in the state, provided, however, that commencing in
7 2003 the senate shall consist of thirty-eight (38) members from the senatorial districts in the state.
8 The senate shall be constituted on the basis of population and each senatorial district shall be
9 comprised of two (2) house districts. The general assembly shall, after any new census taken by
10 authority of the United States, reapportion the representation to conform to the Constitution of the
11 state and the Constitution of the United States.

12 RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendments shall be submitted to the electors
13 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election. The voting places in the
14 several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours required by law for voting therein for
15 general officers of the state; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the said proposition of amendments
17 to be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the
18 said meetings of the said electors; and the said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or
19 notices to be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town,
20 ward, or district meetings, and said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, or district
21 meetings to be held as aforesaid; and be it further

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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- 1 This proposed amendment would consolidate senate districts by making each one a
- 2 combination of two (2) house districts.

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