

2019 -- H 5765

LC001926

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - ELECTIVE MEETINGS

Introduced By: Representatives Jacquard, Noret, Edwards, Kennedy, and Bennett

Date Introduced: February 27, 2019

Referred To: House Judiciary

(Board of Elections)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-18-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-18 entitled "Elective
2 Meetings" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-18-10. Time of opening of polls.**

4 (a) Elective meetings in the cities and towns named in this section shall be opened for the
5 purpose of voting at the hours specified for each particular city or town as designated in the
6 specific time as follows:

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| 7 | (1) Barrington | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 8 | (2) Bristol | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 9 | (3) Burrillville | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 10 | (4) Central Falls | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 11 | (5) Charlestown | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 12 | | for the biennial general election |
| 13 | | and 9 a.m. for all other elections |
| 14 | (6) Coventry | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 15 | (7) Cranston | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 16 | (8) Cumberland | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 17 | (9) East Greenwich | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 18 | (10) East Providence | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 19 | (11) Exeter | Polls open at 7 a.m. |

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| 1 | (12) Foster | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 2 | (13) Gloucester | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 3 | (14) Hopkinton | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 4 | (15) Jamestown | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 5 | | for the biennial general election |
| 6 | | and 8 a.m. for all other elections |
| 7 | (16) Johnston | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 8 | (17) Lincoln | Polis open at 7:00 a.m. |
| 9 | (18) Little Compton | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 10 | (19) Middletown | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 11 | | and 7 a.m. for Presidential Elections only |
| 12 | (20) Narragansett | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 13 | (21) Newport | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 14 | (22) New Shoreham | Polis open at 9 a.m. |
| 15 | (23) North Kingstown | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 16 | (24) North Providence | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 17 | (25) North Smithfield | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 18 | (26) Pawtucket | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 19 | (27) Portsmouth | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 20 | (28) Providence | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 21 | (29) Richmond | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 22 | (30) Scituate | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 23 | (31) Smithfield | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 24 | (32) South Kingstown | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 25 | (33) Tiverton | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 26 | (34) Warren | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 27 | (35) Warwick | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 28 | (36) Westerly | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 29 | (37) West Greenwich | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 30 | (38) West Warwick | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 31 | (39) Woonsocket | Polis open at 7 a.m. |
| 32 | (b) In all special or primary elections in the towns of Hopkinton, Westerly, and Little | |
| 33 | Compton, polls shall open at 9:00 a.m. | |
| 34 | (c) In all presidential preference primaries in the town of New Shoreham, polls shall open | |

1 at 12:00 p.m.

2 (d) ~~In all primary elections in all cities and towns, polls may open at 7:00 a.m.~~ Notice
3 shall be given and posted by the local board.

4 SECTION 2. Section 17-20-16 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-20 entitled "Mail
5 Ballots" is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 **17-20-16. Time of casting vote.**

7 Mail ballots may be cast in the manner provided by law on or before election day;
8 provided, that no mail ballot shall be counted unless it is received by the state board not later than
9 the time prescribed by § 17-18-11 for the closing of polling places on election day, except ballots
10 cast under the provisions of § 17-20-6.1, which shall be counted if received by the state board by
11 four o'clock p.m. (4:00) on the third day following a primary or four o'clock p.m. (4:00) on the
12 seventh day following an election.

13 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO ELECTIONS - ELECTIVE MEETINGS

1 This act would mandate that all polling places in all cities or towns, except New
2 Shoreham, would open at seven (7:00 a.m.) It would also provide that ballots cast by citizens who
3 are covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and other
4 citizens residing outside the United States shall be counted when received by four o'clock p.m.
5 (4:00) on the third day following a primary or four o'clock p.m. (4:00) on the seventh day
6 following an election.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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