

2019 -- H 6044

LC002512

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - POLITICAL ADVERTISING

Introduced By: Representatives Lyle, Filippi, McNamara, and Shekarchi

Date Introduced: May 01, 2019

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-23-18 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-23 entitled "Election
2 Offenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-23-18. Political advertising from official budgets prohibited.**

4 (a) No elected official shall permit the expenditure of public funds from any official
5 budget under his or her authority for any publication, advertisement, broadcast, or telecast of his
6 or her photograph, voice, or other likeness to be broadcast or distributed to the public during the
7 one hundred and twenty (120) days preceding any primary or general election in which he or she
8 is a candidate.

9 (b) This section shall not be construed to prohibit an official from appearing on regular
10 capitol television programming operated by the general assembly ~~or on television stations~~
11 ~~operated by the Rhode Island PBS Foundation~~ during the period of time or programming of
12 regular or special meetings of city or town councils or any local governmental board, agency or
13 other entity.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO ELECTIONS - POLITICAL ADVERTISING

1 This act would remove the exemption that allows elected officials to appear on a Rhode
2 Island PBS Foundation television station program one hundred and twenty (120) days before any
3 election in which they are a candidate.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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