

2022 -- H 7429

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LC004525
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- VOTING DISTRICTS AND OFFICIALS POLLING PLACE
CAP

Introduced By: Representatives Baginski, Fenton-Fung, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: February 09, 2022

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-11-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-11 entitled "Voting
2 Districts and Officials" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-11-1. Division of towns and representative district into voting districts.**

4 The local board of any city or town may, on or before the sixtieth (60th) day preceding any
5 election, divide or redivide the city or town, or any representative district in the city or town, into
6 voting districts. The local board of each city or town shall determine voting districts by
7 geographical boundaries and by no other means. No voting district shall at any time comprise parts
8 of two (2) or more wards. It shall be the duty of the board to divide the city or town, representative
9 district, or ward, so that substantially not more than ~~three thousand (3000)~~ four thousand (4,000)
10 total eligible registered voters shall be served by the same polling place; provided, however, that
11 any divisions conducted by the local board pursuant to this section shall not result in creating a
12 polling place serving less than five hundred (500) total eligible registered voters, except when a
13 polling place is located in a low-income or elderly residential development, or when it is caused by
14 legislative district boundaries; and provided, further, that no existing polling place which is
15 presently located in a low-income or elderly residential development shall be eliminated. Upon the
16 establishment and approval of any polling place by the state board, changes to the polling place
17 shall not be allowed until the next redistricting by the general assembly, unless the polling place
18 becomes unavailable to the city or town, or no longer meets polling place minimum requirements

1 as established by the state board, then the city or town may take the appropriate action to replace
2 the polling place. A polling place may be located either within or without the voting district for
3 which it is established; provided, that a polling place may be located outside the district only upon
4 unanimous determination of the local board and subject to the approval of the state board that a
5 suitable place is not available within the voting district.

6 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 increase the maximum number of voters that a polling place can
- 2 accommodate from three thousand (3,000) to four thousand (4,000).
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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