

2012 -- H 7561

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

Introduced By: Representatives Keable, San Bento, Marcello, Valencia, and Kennedy

Date Introduced: February 15, 2012

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-9.1-25 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-9.1 entitled
2 "Registration of Voters" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-9.1-25. Acknowledgement of registration or change of address -- Verification of**
4 **residence. --** (a) The local board of each city or town shall mail an acknowledgement notice to
5 each newly registered voter and to each voter who changes his or her voting residence within
6 seven (7) days after receipt of the registration or change of residence. The acknowledgement
7 notice shall notify the applicant for registration of the disposition of the application, i.e., whether
8 the application is deemed accepted or denied. If denied, the reason for the denial shall be
9 indicated on the notice. The acknowledgement notice shall be mailed to the applicant at the
10 address from which he or she registered and shall be clearly marked: "Do Not Forward -- Return
11 If Undeliverable". Provided, however, that the New Shoreham Board of Canvassers may address
12 the acknowledgement notice, and any other notice that may be required by this chapter, to the
13 person's post office box if said post office box is located within the confines of New Shoreham.
14 Provided, further that in any other city or town in which some postal customers are not eligible to
15 receive home mail delivery from the United States postal service, and the respective streets and
16 street ranges are certified as such to the secretary of state, the city or town shall address the
17 acknowledgment card and any other notice that may be required by this chapter to the United
18 States postal service post office box at which the voter receives mail.

19 (b) The acknowledgement form shall be a postal card of a size and other specifications

1 that shall be determined by the state board and shall be substantially in the following form;
2 provided, that the wording of the form may be revised and updated from time to time by the state
3 board in a manner to make its content as easily readable and understandable as possible:

4 Front Side

5 Board of Canvassers Affix

6 Address of Board of Canvassers Postage

7 for the city or town in which registered

8 ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED DO
9 NOT FORWARD

10 Voter's Name

11 Voter's Address

12 _____

13 Reverse Side

14 _____

15 Your application to register to vote has been received and accepted. The following is information
16 concerning your voting districts.

17 Your U.S. Representative District is _____

18 Your State Senate District is _____

19 Your Representative District is _____

20 Your Council District is _____

21 Your Ward District is _____

22 Your Voting District is _____

23 Locations of polling places for these districts may be obtained from newspaper
24 advertisements preceding each election or by calling your local board. Your application to
25 register to vote has been received incomplete. Please contact our office at the telephone number
26 or address listed below. Your application to register to vote has been rejected because
27 _____

28 _____

29 If this card is addressed to a person who does not live at this address, please ask your mail carrier
30 to return it to the sender.

31 Board of Canvassers

32 Address

33 Telephone Number

34 (c) The form may also contain any other information that may be required by the state

1 board.

2 (d) Those notices that are returned as undeliverable to the local board shall be reviewed
3 to verify that the address was correctly printed on the notice. All notices returned as undeliverable
4 shall be attached to the registration notices and maintained as a record of the local board.

5 (e) Any voter whose application to register to vote has been accepted, but whose
6 acknowledgement notice has been returned by postal authorities as undeliverable, shall be placed
7 on an inactive list of voters and shall not be permitted to vote unless an affirmation form is
8 completed. The local board shall be required, upon receipt of the undeliverable acknowledgement
9 notice, to commence the confirmation process described in section 17-9.1-26.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO ELECTIONS - REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

1 This act would provide for the use of post office boxes for purposes of acknowledgement
2 of registration or change of address and verification of residence in those cases where the
3 prospective voter does not receive home mail delivery.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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