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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- MAINTENANCE OF VOTER REGISTRATION FILES

Introduced By: Representatives Almeida, Shallcross Smith, and Carnevale

Date Introduced: April 06, 2010

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 16-59 of the General Laws entitled "Board of Governors for Higher  
2 Education" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **16-59-25.1. Maintenance of voter registration files.** – (a) In order to better maintain  
4 voter registration files, all institutions of higher education shall, on or before August 15<sup>th</sup> of each  
5 year, electronically transmit a text file or database to the secretary of state containing the names  
6 and current addresses of those students who have graduated that year and for whom public  
7 directory information is available. Within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of the file or database,  
8 the secretary of state may send a letter to each such student requesting verification as to whether  
9 such student intends to continue to reside in the State of Rhode Island.

10           (b) The letter shall:

11           (1) Request the student, if he or she has moved to a new address within Rhode Island, to  
12 complete a form, enclosed with the letter, allowing him or her to provide a new address for re-  
13 registration purposes;

14           (2) Request the student, if he or she has moved to a new address outside of Rhode Island,  
15 to so advise the secretary of state on a form enclosed with the letter, authorizing his or her  
16 removal from the voter registration list;

17           (3) Remind the student to re-register at a new address if he or she subsequently moves  
18 from their current address; and

19           (4) Make clear that the request for information is strictly voluntary, that the student has

1 no obligation to respond to the letter, and that no student shall be removed from the voter  
2 registration list unless such student responds to the mailing and authorizes his or her removal  
3 from the voter registration list.

4 (c) Mailings conducted pursuant to this section shall not seek address correction from the  
5 postal service. In the event that a letter is nonetheless returned as undeliverable to the address  
6 where the letter was sent, it shall not serve as a basis for initiating the confirmation process  
7 established in section 17-9.1-26.

8 (d) The form letter used by the secretary of state to implement this provision shall be  
9 adopted in accordance with the rule-making provisions of chapter 35 of title 42 (The  
10 “Administrative Procedures Act”).

11 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 EDUCATION -- MAINTENANCE OF VOTER REGISTRATION FILES

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1           This act would require all institutions of higher education to maintain and electronically  
2 transmit a file or database of names and addresses annually of those students who have graduated  
3 to the secretary of state on or before August 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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