

2013 -- S 0448

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, and Lombardo

Date Introduced: February 28, 2013

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 17-20-16, 17-20-21 and 17-20-22 of the General Laws in Chapter
2 17-20 entitled "Mail Ballots" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-20-16. Time of casting vote.** -- Mail ballots may be cast in the manner provided by
4 law on or before election day; provided, that no mail ballot shall be counted unless it is received
5 by the state board not later than ~~nine o'clock (9:00)~~ eight o'clock (8:00) p.m. local time on
6 election day.

7 **17-20-21. Certifying envelopes.** -- The secretary of state shall cause to be prepared and
8 printed and shall furnish with each mail ballot an envelope for sealing up and certifying the ballot
9 when returned. The envelope shall be printed in substantially the following form:

10 "After marking ballot or ballots, fold and enclose in this envelope and seal it. Certify to
11 statement hereon. Enclose in envelope addressed to board of elections, which must receive the
12 envelope not later than ~~nine o'clock (9:00)~~ eight o'clock (8:00) p.m. the day of election."

13 Date of Election: _____ City/Town of: _____

14 Certificate of Voter

15 Print Name of Voter

16 I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that I am:

17 I am a United States citizen;

18 I am a resident and qualified voter of the State of Rhode Island;

19 I am eligible to cast a mail ballot under the provisions of section 17-20-2; and

1 I am not qualified to vote elsewhere.

2 Voter must sign full name here: _____

3 (If unable to sign name because of physical incapacity or otherwise, voter shall make his or her
4 mark "(X)").

5 I hereby attest under penalty of perjury that the enclosed voted ballot was cast, and the signature
6 or mark on this certifying envelope was made by the voter whose name appears on the label
7 above.

8 Before me the _____ day of _____ 20_____, at _____ (city
9 or town), county of _____, state of _____, personally appeared the
10 above named voter, to me known and known by me to be the person who affixed his or her
11 signature to this ballot envelope.

12 _____

13 Notary Public

14 Notary must also print his or her name

15 Witness:

16 _____

17 (Signature) (Residence)

18 Note: Mail ballots must either be sworn to before a notary public or before two (2)
19 witnesses who must sign their names and addresses.

20 **17-20-22. Certification envelopes for mail ballots of persons intimately connected**

21 **with military service and persons employed outside of the United States. --** The distinctively
22 colored certification envelope for persons intimately connected with military service and persons
23 employed outside of the United States shall be printed in substantially the following form:

24 After marking ballot or ballots, fold and enclose in this envelope and seal it. Certify to
25 statement hereon. Enclose in envelope addressed to board of elections, which must receive the
26 envelope not later than ~~nine o'clock (9:00)~~ eight o'clock (8:00) p.m. the day of election.

27 Date of Election _____ City/Town of _____

28 Oath of Elector Casting the Enclosed Ballot or Ballots

29 Print Name

30 I do hereby affirm, under penalty of perjury that:

31 I am a United States citizen;

32 I am a resident and qualified voter of the State of Rhode Island;

33 I am eligible to cast a mail ballot, because I am one of the following:

34 A member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty or an eligible spouse

1 or dependent.

2 A U.S. citizen who will be outside the United States.

3 I am not qualified to vote elsewhere.

4 _____

5 (Signature of voter)

6 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 -- MAIL BALLOTS

1 This act would change the provisions for the time of receiving mail ballots by the board
2 of elections from nine o'clock (9:00) pm to eight o'clock (8:00) pm. Mail ballots would not be
3 counted unless they are received by the state board of elections no later than eight o'clock (8:00)
4 pm local time on election day and this act would further make changes to the receipt and
5 certification of envelopes by the secretary of state.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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