

2016 -- S 2071

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Introduced By: Senators Picard, Paiva Weed, and Pearson

Date Introduced: January 13, 2016

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-2-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-2 entitled "General State
2 Officers" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-2-1. General officers enumerated -- Election and terms. --** The governor, lieutenant
4 governor, secretary of state, attorney general, and general treasurer shall be known as general
5 officers. Commencing with the quadrennial election of A.D. 2018, the candidates for the offices
6 of governor and lieutenant governor shall form joint candidacies so that each voter shall cast a
7 single vote for a candidate for governor and a candidate for lieutenant governor running together.
8 ~~They~~ The general officers shall be elected at a general election, quadrennially, in accordance with
9 the provisions of this title, and shall hold their respective offices for four (4) years beginning on
10 the first Tuesday of January next succeeding their election and until the election and qualification
11 of their respective successors.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 17-14 of the General Laws entitled "Nomination of Party and
13 Independent Candidates" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

14 **17-14-1.3. Candidacy for lieutenant governor. –** (a) No later than (5:00) pm on the
15 ninth day following the primary election, each candidate for governor shall designate, in writing,
16 a candidate for lieutenant governor as a running mate.

17 (b) No later than (5:00) pm on the ninth day following the primary election, each
18 designated candidate for lieutenant governor shall file with the secretary of state a signed
19 declaration which contains the following:

1 (1) The candidate's name as it appears on the voting list, subject to the same provisions as
2 it relates to the candidate's signature;

3 (2) The candidate's address as it appears on the voting list, provided that an address
4 which is substantially the same as the address on the voting list shall be valid;

5 (3) The candidate's place and date of birth;

6 (4) The candidate's length of residence in the state and in the town or city where they
7 reside;

8 (5) A certification that the candidate is neither serving a sentence, including probation or
9 parole, for which they were imprisoned upon final conviction of a felony imposed on any date,
10 nor serving any sentence, whether incarcerated or suspended, on probation or parole, upon final
11 conviction of a felony committed after November 5, 1986;

12 (6) A certification that the candidate has not been lawfully adjudicated to be non compos
13 mentis, of unsound mind;

14 (7) A certification that the candidate has not, within the preceding three (3) years, served
15 any sentence, incarcerated or suspended, on probation or parole, for a crime committed after
16 November 5, 1986, upon a plea of nolo contendere or guilty or upon a conviction of a felony or
17 for a misdemeanor for which a sentence of imprisonment for six (6) months or more, whether
18 suspended or to be served as imposed.

19 (c) A designated candidate for lieutenant governor is not required to obtain signatures on
20 nomination papers.

21 (d) Ballot position obtained by the candidate for governor entitles the designated
22 candidate for lieutenant governor, upon receipt by the secretary of state of an approved
23 declaration to have their name placed on the ballot for the joint candidacy.

24 (e) In order to have the name of the candidate for lieutenant governor printed on the
25 primary election ballot, a candidate for governor participating in the primary must designate the
26 candidate for lieutenant governor, and such designated candidate must qualify no later than sixty
27 (60) days before the primary. If the candidate for lieutenant governor has not been designated and
28 has not been timely certified by the secretary of state, the phrase "Not Yet Designated" must be
29 included in lieu of the candidate's name on the primary election ballot.

30 (f) Failure of the lieutenant governor candidate to be designated and qualified by the time
31 specified in subsection (b) of this section shall result in forfeiture of the ballot position for the
32 candidate for governor for the general election.

33 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage of the joint resolution entitled, Joint
34 Resolution "To approve and publish and submit to the electors a proposition of amendment to the

- 1 constitution of the state (governor and lieutenant governor to appear jointly on the ballot)", to be
- 2 voted upon by the electorate at the next statewide election.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would provide that candidates for governor and lieutenant governor would run
2 on a joint ticket commencing with the general election in 2018.

3 This act would take effect upon passage of the joint resolution entitled, Joint Resolution
4 "To approve and publish and submit to the electors a proposition of amendment to the
5 constitution of the state (governor and lieutenant governor to appear jointly on the ballot)", to be
6 voted upon by the electorate at the next statewide election.

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