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LC004276/SUB A
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

**CREATING A SPECIAL SENATE COMMISSION TO STUDY RANKED CHOICE VOTING
AND RUNOFF ELECTIONS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND GENERAL OFFICER
PRIMARIES**

Introduced By: Senators Zurier, DiMario, Kallman, and McCaffrey

Date Introduced: February 08, 2022

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, Using Ranked Choice Voting has the potential to expand the range of
2 choices available to voters by allowing them to vote for candidates of their choice without
3 concern of giving an advantage to the candidate they least prefer and promote campaigns that are
4 more positive and focused on issues because candidates will seek to appeal to opponents'
5 supporters as a second choice; and

6 WHEREAS, The implementation of runoff elections would ensure that a winner of a
7 primary election won a majority of the votes in a given election, promoting majority support of a
8 candidate by the electorate; now therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
10 consisting of seven (7) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more
11 than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of
12 whom shall be a representative of the Board of Elections, to be appointed by the President of the
13 Senate; one of whom shall be the Secretary of State, or designee; and two (2) of whom shall be
14 representatives from a board of canvassers or election officials of two (2) different cities or towns
15 in the state, to be appointed by the President of the Senate.

16 All members of the study commission shall be registered voters of this state at the time of
17 their selection and at all times while they remain on the commission.

18 The purpose of said commission shall be to study the potential application of ranked
19 choice voting on primary elections for General Assembly and General Officer candidates,

1 including but not limited to;

2 • Analyzing the requirements for implementing ranked choice voting, including
3 public education, voting equipment and technology, ballot designs, and costs;

4 • Determining the level of public support for ranked choice voting;

5 • Reviewing the experience of other states in conducting elections using ranked
6 choice voting;

7 • Providing recommended changes in the law to implement ranked choice voting;
8 and

9 • Providing recommendations on making all voting systems used in the state
10 compatible with ranked choice voting, including a review of the availability and costs of
11 necessary voting equipment; study any other alternatives to single-ballot plurality voting the
12 commission considers relevant or useful.

13 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
14 the call of the President of the Senate, who shall appoint a Chair of the commission.

15 Vacancies in the commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

16 A quorum of the commission shall consist of a majority of its membership, and the
17 membership of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services.

18 All departments and agencies of the state, shall furnish such advice and information,
19 documentary or otherwise, to the commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or desirable
20 by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

21 The Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide
22 suitable quarters for the commission; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
24 President of the Senate on or before February 1, 2023, and the commission shall expire on July 1,
25 2023.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
SENATE RESOLUTION
CREATING A SPECIAL SENATE COMMISSION TO STUDY RANKED CHOICE VOTING
AND RUNOFF ELECTIONS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND GENERAL OFFICER
PRIMARIES

- 1 This resolution creates a seven (7) member commission to study ranked choice voting for
- 2 General Assembly and General Officer primaries, and would report back to the President of the
- 3 Senate on or before February 1, 2023, and would expire on July 1, 2023.

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