2016 -- S 2504

S T A T E   O F   R H O D E   I S L A N D

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N   A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- BALLOT ARRANGEMENT

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: February 25, 2016

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1   SECTION 1. Section 17-19-9.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-19 entitled "Conduct

2   of Election and Voting Equipment, and Supplies" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3   **17-19-9.1. Ballot arrangement -- Independent candidates. --** In all state elections at

4   which candidates for public office are to be elected, some of whom are candidates of a political

5   party and some of whom are independent candidates as defined in § 17-1-2(4), all independent

6   candidates for the same public office shall be listed on the ballot, in the vertical column below the

7   title of the office they seek, following the listing of the political party candidates for the office

8   and in an order chosen by lottery; provided, that any independent candidate shall be entitled to

9   have appear on the ballot, in small print to the right his or her name, the name of any political

10   principle, movement, or organization with which the candidate wishes to be identified. The name

11   of the political principle, movement, or organization must be identified on the declaration of

12   candidacy, must contain not more than three (3) words, and must not include, in whole or in part,

13   the name of any political party. If any declaration of candidacy does not contain the name of any

14   political principle, movement, or organization, the word "independent" will appear in small print

15   to the right the name of the candidate on the ballot. Except as provided in this section, the powers

16   and duties of the secretary of state with respect to the preparation of the ballots shall not be

17   affected.

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

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EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

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1   This act would remove the requirement that independent candidates for political office be

2   listed in a vertical column on the ballot.

3   This act would take effect upon passage.

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