

2016 -- S 2627

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LC005165  
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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 -- WARDENS AND SUPERVISORS

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, Lombardi, Lynch Prata, Metts, and Conley

Date Introduced: February 25, 2016

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(Board of Elections)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 17-19-23 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           **17-19-23. Wardens and supervisors -- Powers and duties. --** The wardens shall:

4           (1) Have general supervision of the voting place;

5           (2) ~~Assign the first, second, and any additional pairs of supervisors to their respective~~  
6 ~~stations;~~

7           (3) ~~From time to time, assign~~ Assign and reassign and relieve the bipartisan pairs of  
8 supervisors, as the efficient conduct of the election may require;

9           (4) ~~Unlock~~ Access the voting list and set it before the ~~first~~ bipartisan ~~pair~~ pairs, if it has  
10 not been divided in sections, or set each section before a bipartisan pair where it has been divided  
11 in sections, immediately preceding the opening of the polls;

12           (5) ~~Assign the second or additional bipartisan pair of supervisors to watch the voters~~  
13 ~~while they are in and about the voting booths, and to enter the voting booths for the purpose of~~  
14 ~~assisting voters who are unable to vote, within the limits provided by this chapter;~~

15           (6) Be vigilant and responsible to prevent any voter from voting more than once;

16           (7) Cause to be established a single line of persons desiring to vote and enlist the  
17 assistance of the supervisors and the police in attendance to maintain that line;

18           (8) As far as consistent with their other duties, station themselves at the entrance to the  
19 polling area and prevent any person from entering the ~~enclosed space behind the rail~~ designated

1 [voting area](#), except under the authority of this chapter, and prevent any person from entering that  
2 ~~space~~ [area](#) for the purpose of voting until that person's name has been announced and that  
3 person's identity certified according to law by the supervisors in charge of the voting list, and  
4 shall prevent any voter from departing the enclosed space while in possession of his or her  
5 computer ballot. A notice shall be provided by the state board and posted in a conspicuous place  
6 advising that it is a felony for a voter to leave the enclosed area while in possession of his or her  
7 ballot. The voter has the option of casting his or her ballot or surrendering the ballot to the  
8 warden whereby it will be marked void;

9           (9) Cause to be removed or arrested any person or official who commits a violation of  
10 the election law in their presence or disturbs the conduct of the voting; provided, that they shall  
11 not cause any removal or arrest without the approval of the election inspector, unless the clerk  
12 agrees with the wardens that the person or official should be arrested or removed;

13           (10) Have the power to administer oaths as required by this title, and to attest the oaths  
14 by signature in proof of the administration of the oaths.

15           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 authorize the use of more than one bipartisan pair of poll supervisors
- 2   which should help eliminate lines.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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