

2011 -- H 5352

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LC00568  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - VOTING DISTRICTS

Introduced By: Representatives Reilly, Newberry, Gordon, and Chippendale

Date Introduced: February 15, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 17-11-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-11 entitled "Voting  
2   Districts and Officials" is hereby repealed.

3           ~~17-11-1. Division of towns and representative district into voting districts. -- The~~  
4   ~~local board of any city or town may, on or before the sixtieth (60th) day preceding any election,~~  
5   ~~divide or redivide the town, or any representative district in the city or town, into voting districts.~~  
6   ~~The local board of each city shall determine voting districts by geographical boundaries and by~~  
7   ~~no other means. No voting district shall at any time comprise parts of two (2) or more wards. It~~  
8   ~~shall be the duty of the board to divide the town, representative district, or ward, so that~~  
9   ~~substantially not more than nineteen hundred (1900) voters shall be served by the same polling~~  
10   ~~place; provided, that subject to the approval of the state board, a local board may provide for~~  
11   ~~servicing more than nineteen hundred (1900) voters in the same polling place where the effect to~~  
12   ~~the contrary would be of creating a polling place serving less than one hundred fifty (150) voters.~~  
13   ~~A polling place may be located either within or without the voting district for which it is~~  
14   ~~established; provided, that a polling place may be located outside the district only upon~~  
15   ~~unanimous determination of the local board and subject to the approval of the state board that a~~  
16   ~~suitable place is not available within the voting district. In making the calculation required by this~~  
17   ~~section, voters whose names are on the inactive list of voters shall not be included.~~

1 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 - VOTING DISTRICTS

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1           This act would eliminate the state mandate that local boards of canvassers divide their  
2 municipality into voting districts before every local election.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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