

2011 -- H 5413

LC00101

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF  
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE – COMPOSITION OF THE  
SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced By: Representative Spencer E. Dickinson

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, The proposed amendments to Article VII and Article VIII of the  
2 Constitution of the state are intended to have the collective effect of simplification of the  
3 redistricting process and of allowing the electors to more easily identify and evaluate candidates  
4 for the general assembly; and

5 WHEREAS, In order to accomplish this purpose the number of districts in the House of  
6 Representatives must be increased by one; and

7 RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general  
8 assembly voting therefore, the following amendments to the Constitution of the state be proposed  
9 to the qualified electors of the state in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of the  
10 Constitution, for their approval and the following sections are hereby amended, effective on  
11 January 1, ~~2011~~ [2013](#), to read as follows:

12 **ARTICLE VII**

13 **OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

14 **Section 1. Composition.** -- There shall be one hundred (100) members of the house of  
15 representatives, provided, however, that commencing in 2003 there shall be seventy-five (75)  
16 members of the house of representatives [and commencing in 2013 there shall be seventy-six \(76\)](#)  
17 [members of the house of representatives](#). The house of representatives shall be constituted on the  
18 basis of population and the representative districts shall be as nearly equal in population and as  
19 compact in territory as possible. The general assembly shall, after any new census taken by

1 authority of the United States, reapportion the representation to conform to the Constitution of the  
2 state and the Constitution of the United States.

3 **ARTICLE VIII**  
4 **OF THE SENATE**

5 **Section 1. Composition.** -- The senate shall consist of the lieutenant governor and fifty  
6 (50) members from the senatorial districts in the state, provided, however, that commencing in  
7 2003 the senate shall consist of thirty-eight (38) members from the senatorial districts in the state.  
8 The senate shall be constituted on the basis of population and the senatorial districts shall be  
9 comprised of two (2) house districts ~~as nearly equal in population and as compact in territory as~~  
10 ~~possible~~. The general assembly shall, after any new census taken by authority of the United  
11 States, reapportion the representation to conform to the Constitution of the state and the  
12 Constitution of the United States.

13 RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendments shall be submitted to the electors  
14 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election. The voting places in the  
15 several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours required by law for voting therein for  
16 general officers of the state; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the said proposition of amendments  
18 to be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the  
19 said meetings of the said electors; and the said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or  
20 notices to be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town,  
21 ward, or district meetings, and said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, or district  
22 meetings to be held as aforesaid; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the town, ward, and district meetings to be held aforesaid shall be  
24 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and  
25 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,  
26 ward, and district meetings for the election of general officers of the state.

=====  
LC00101  
=====