

2023 -- H 5461

LC001283

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

Introduced By: Representatives Sanchez, Morales, Stewart, Giraldo, Henries, Biah, and Alzate

Date Introduced: February 08, 2023

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-9.1-11 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-9.1 entitled
2 "Registration of Voters" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-9.1-11. Certification of citizenship.**

4 (a) Before the name of any person shall be placed on the voting list, the person shall, at the
5 time of registration, certify or declare that the person is a citizen of the United States.

6 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any city or town may,
7 by ordinance, allow all residents of the municipality to vote in municipal elections for municipal
8 officeholders regardless of the immigration status of the residents.

9 (c) The local board of canvassers, in conjunction with the secretary of state and the board
10 of elections, shall develop the forms and instructions to implement the provisions of subsection (b)
11 of this section as well as any rules and regulations necessary to ensure that any ballot for municipal
12 officeholders only is kept separate and apart from ballots distributed to voters pursuant to
13 subsection (a) of this section and counted separately for transmission to the board of elections.

14 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 -- REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

1 This act would authorize cities and towns, by ordinance, to allow all their residents to vote
2 in municipal elections for municipal officeholders regardless of the immigration status of their
3 residents.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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