

2023 -- H 5612

LC001343

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: Representative Patricia A. Serpa

Date Introduced: February 15, 2023

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-9.1-23 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-9.1 entitled  
2 "Registration of Voters" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-9.1-23. Party designation.**

4 (a) Whenever any person registers to vote, that person may designate his or her party  
5 affiliation, or that person may designate that he or she is not affiliated with any political party. The  
6 information shall be recorded on a form prescribed by the state board of elections.

7 (b) Any person who is already registered to vote and wishes to designate his or her party  
8 affiliation may do so by submitting to that person's local board of canvassers a form provided by  
9 the state board designating his or her party affiliation and certifying to the fact on the form furnished  
10 for that purpose.

11 ~~(c) Whenever any person participates in a party primary, that act shall serve as identifying~~  
12 ~~the person as being affiliated with the party in whose primary that person has participated and the~~  
13 ~~local board shall record the affiliation on the appropriate form. For the purposes of this section,~~  
14 ~~"participating in a party primary" does not include the circulation or signing of nomination papers.~~

15 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

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1           This act would allow non-affiliated party voters to vote in party primaries, without  
2 becoming an affiliated party voter.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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