

2010 -- H 7520

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - VOTING DISTRICTS

Introduced By: Representatives Newberry, Martin, and Driver

Date Introduced: February 23, 2010

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2 Districts and Officials" is hereby repealed.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
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RELATING TO ELECTIONS - VOTING DISTRICTS

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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