

2020 -- H 7640

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LC004775  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

Introduced By: Representatives Cassar, Amore, Knight, Kazarian, and Lyle

Date Introduced: February 14, 2020

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 17-1-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-1 entitled "General  
2 Provisions" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **17-1-3. Eligibility to vote.**

4           (a) Every citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen (18) years of age, whose  
5 residence as defined in § 17-1-3.1 has been in this state for at least thirty (30) days, and in the town  
6 or city and voting district in which that person desires to cast his or her vote at least thirty (30) days  
7 next preceding the election, and who is registered in that city or town and voting district at least  
8 thirty (30) days next preceding any election, shall be entitled to vote in the election; provided, a  
9 person may vote in a primary election only if that person is eligible under the provisions of this  
10 title. A person who has not registered to vote, or whose registration has been canceled pursuant to  
11 § 17-10-1, may cast a vote for president and vice-president on election day at his or her city or town  
12 hall or at an alternate location designated by the board of canvassers, and approved by the board of  
13 elections, where such location is deemed necessary to better accommodate such voters. The casting  
14 of that vote shall commence the process of voter registration and subject the person voting to the  
15 requirements and penalties of this chapter.

16           (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any person who has  
17 not yet reached eighteen (18) years of age may vote in a primary election, in which candidates are  
18 nominated for a general or special election, that will occur when the individual is eighteen (18)  
19 years of age.

1 [\(c\) The provisions of subsection \(b\) of this section shall not extend to any other elections.](#)

2 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would allow individuals, who have not reached the age of eighteen (18) years, to  
2 vote in a primary election, as long as the voter will be eighteen (18) as of the date of the general or  
3 special election.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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