



1 until their successors are elected and qualified; provided, that commencing with the election to  
2 be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2020, and on every such Tuesday in  
3 every fourth year thereafter, they shall be elected for four (4) year terms and shall severally hold  
4 their offices for four (4) years from the first Tuesday of January next succeeding their election  
5 and until their successors are elected and qualified.

6 Recall is authorized in the case of a general officer who has been indicted or informed  
7 against for a felony, convicted of a misdemeanor, or against whom a finding of probable cause of  
8 violation of the code of ethics has been made by the ethics commission. Recall shall not, however  
9 be instituted at any time during the first six (6) months or the last year of an individual's term of  
10 office.

11 Such a recall may be instituted by filing with the state board of elections an application  
12 for issuance of a recall petition against said general officer which is signed by duly qualified  
13 electors equal to three percent (3%) of the total number of votes cast at the last preceding general  
14 election for that office. If, upon verification, the application is determined to contain signatures of  
15 the required number of electors, the state board of elections shall issue a recall petition for  
16 circulation amongst the electors of the state. Within ninety (90) days of issuance, recall petitions  
17 containing the signatures of duly qualified electors constituting fifteen percent (15%) of the total  
18 number of votes cast in the last preceding general election for said office must be filed with the  
19 state board of elections.

20 The signatures to the application and to the recall petition need not all be on one (1) sheet  
21 of paper, but each such application and petition must contain an identical statement naming the  
22 person to be recalled, the general office held by said person, and the grounds for such recall set  
23 forth in a statement of one hundred (100) words or less approved by the board of elections. Each  
24 signatory must set forth his or her signature as it appears on the voting list, the date of signing,  
25 and his or her place of residence. The person witnessing the signatures of each elector on said  
26 petition must sign a statement under oath on said sheet attesting that the signatures thereon are  
27 genuine and were signed in his or her presence.

28 If the requisite number of signatures are not obtained within said ninety (90) days period,  
29 the recall effort shall terminate. Upon verification of the requisite number of signatures, a special  
30 election shall be scheduled at which the issue of removing said office holder and the grounds  
31 therefor shall be placed before the electors of the state. If a majority of those voting support  
32 removal of said office holder, the office shall be immediately declared vacant and shall be filled  
33 in accordance with the constitution and laws of the state. The person so removed shall not be  
34 eligible to fill the unexpired portion of the term of office. The general assembly shall provide by

1 statute for implementation of the recall process.

2 RESOLVED, That this amendment take, in the Constitution of the state, the place of  
3 Article IV, Section I of the Constitution; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendment shall be submitted to the electors  
5 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election to be held in November,  
6 2018. The voting places in the several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours  
7 required by law for voting therein for members of the state general assembly; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the said proposition of amendment to  
9 be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the said  
10 meetings of said electors; and the said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or notices to  
11 be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town, ward or  
12 district meetings, and said proposition shall be read by the town, ward or district meetings to be  
13 held as aforesaid; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the town, ward and district meetings to be held aforesaid shall be  
15 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward and  
16 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,  
17 ward and district meetings for the next general election of members to the state general assembly  
18 and such other general officers of the state as may be up for election.

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LC004650  
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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF  
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND (FOUR-  
YEAR TERMS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

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- 1 This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment which, if approved, would give
- 2 members of the general assembly four-year terms commencing in January, 2021.

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