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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- VOTING DISTRICTS AND OFFICIALS

Introduced By: Senators Coyne, Seveney, and Felag

Date Introduced: January 09, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-11-1.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-11 entitled "Voting  
2 Districts and Officials" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-11-1.1. Combination of voting districts for special election.**

4 (a) The board of canvassers of any city or town at which there shall be submitted to the  
5 voters a question or questions for their approval or rejection but at which no state or local  
6 officials will be elected, shall have the authority to combine two (2) or more voting districts,  
7 when in its judgment the combination is advisable, and when combined shall be treated as a  
8 voting district, but only upon the approval of the board of elections.

9 (b) If voting districts are combined as provided in subsection (a) of this section, the local  
10 board must advertise the combination of districts in a newspaper of general circulation in the city  
11 or town no less than seven (7) days and no more than twenty-one (21) days before the special  
12 election.

13 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the board of  
14 canvassers of the city of Woonsocket or the town of Cumberland may combine two (2) or more  
15 voting districts for the senate district 20 special election in April, 2008 and when combined shall  
16 be treated as a voting district, but only upon the approval of the board of elections.

17 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the board of  
18 canvassers of the town of Bristol may combine two (2) or more voting districts for the  
19 representative district 68 special election in March, 2019, and when combined shall be treated as

1 [a voting district, but only upon the approval of the board of elections.](#)

2           If voting districts are combined pursuant to this subsection, the local board must advertise  
3 the combination of districts in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or town no less than  
4 three (3) days before the special election.

5           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 -- VOTING DISTRICTS AND OFFICIALS

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- 1           This act would allow the board of canvassers of the town of Bristol to combine two (2) or
- 2 more voting districts for the representative district 68 special election in March, 2019.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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