

2011 -- S 0226

LC00984

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- VOTING DISTRICTS AND OFFICIALS

Introduced By: Senators Walaska, and Bates

Date Introduced: February 09, 2011

Referred To: Senate 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 amended to read as follows:  
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)~~ three thousand (3,000) voters shall be served  
10   by the same polling place; provided, that subject to the approval of the state board, a local board  
11   may provide for serving more than ~~nineteen hundred (1900)~~ three thousand (3,000) voters in the  
12   same polling place where the effect to the contrary would be of creating a polling place serving  
13   less than ~~one hundred fifty (150)~~ two hundred (200) voters. A polling place may be located either  
14   within or without the voting district for which it is established; provided, that a polling place may  
15   be located outside the district only upon unanimous determination of the local board and subject  
16   to the approval of the state board that a suitable place is not available within the voting district. In  
17   making the calculation required by this section, voters whose names are on the inactive list of  
18   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  
A N A C T  
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1           This act would require a local board of canvassers to divide the town, representative  
2 district, or ward into voting districts, to increase the size of voting districts from nineteen hundred  
3 (1,900) voters to three thousand (3,000) voters to be served by the polling place, unless by  
4 creating a polling place serving three thousand (3,000) voters it results in another voting district  
5 that would serve less than two hundred (200) voters.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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