

2021 -- S 0569

LC002361

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF  
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE - OF SUFFRAGE

Introduced By: Senators DiMario, Euer, Murray, and Cano

Date Introduced: March 09, 2021

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1           RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general  
2 assembly voting therefor, the following amendment to the Constitution of the State be proposed  
3 to the qualified electors of the state in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of the  
4 Constitution for their approval and that it take the place of Article II Section 1 which is hereby  
5 amended to read as follows:

6           Section 1. Persons entitled to vote. -- Every citizen of the United States of the age of  
7 eighteen years or over who has established residency in the state of Rhode Island ~~had residence~~  
8 ~~and home in this state for thirty days next preceding the time of voting, who has resided thirty~~  
9 ~~days in the town or city from which such citizen desires to vote, and whose name shall be~~  
10 ~~registered at least thirty days next preceding the time of voting~~ and who is a registered voter as  
11 provided by law, shall have the right to vote for all offices to be elected and on all questions  
12 submitted to the electors, except that no person who has been lawfully adjudicated to be non  
13 compos mentis shall be permitted to vote. No person who is incarcerated in a correctional facility  
14 upon a felony conviction shall be permitted to vote until such person is discharged from the  
15 facility. Upon discharge, such person's right to vote shall be restored. ~~The general assembly may~~  
16 ~~provide by law for shorter state and local residence requirements to vote for electors for president~~  
17 ~~and vice president of the United States.~~

18           RESOLVED, That this amendment shall take, in the Constitution of the State, the place  
19 of Section 1, Article II of the Constitution;

1           It is further

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

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

12           RESOLVED, That the town, ward, and district meetings to be held aforesaid shall be  
13 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and  
14 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,  
15 ward, and district meetings for the election of general officers of the state.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
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1           This act would amend the state constitution to remove the requirement that you must  
2       reside in the state for thirty days prior to registering to vote in the state.

3           The said proposition of amendment would be submitted to the electors for their approval  
4       or rejection at the next statewide general election.

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