

2023 -- S 1005

LC002969

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 492 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 2006 AMENDING THE  
CHARTER OF THE CENTRAL COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT

Introduced By: Senators Rogers, and DeLuca

Date Introduced: May 15, 2023

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 7 (a), Section 9, and Section 12 of Chapter 492 of the Public Laws  
2 of 2006, as amended, entitled "AN ACT IN AMENDMENT OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE  
3 CENTRAL COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT IN FURTHERANCE OF THE "CONSOLIDATION  
4 PLAN" OF THE CENTRAL COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT, THE WASHINGTON LIGHTING  
5 DISTRICT, THE HARRIS FIRE & LIGHTING DISTRICT AND THE TIOGUE FIRE  
6 DISTRICT, AS APPROVED BY THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF SAID DISTRICTS, AT DULY  
7 CALLED MEETINGS HELD ON MARCH 28, 2006" are hereby amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 7. TAXING AUTHORITY - TAX ASSESSOR

9 (a) Said qualified voters at any of their legal meetings shall have the power to order such  
10 taxes and provide for the assessing and collecting of the same on the taxable inhabitants and  
11 property in said district as they shall deem necessary for purchasing fire engines, and all other  
12 implements and apparatus for the extinguishing of fire; for the purchase of land and buildings for  
13 keeping same; for the purchasing, installation, operation and maintenance of a suitable alarm  
14 system; for the purchasing, installation, operation and maintenance of lighting on the streets and  
15 highways of the district; for making cisterns and reservoirs; for paying the salaries of district  
16 officers and employees, as well as the members of the rescue unit known as Central Coventry  
17 Rescue and for the payment of its legal indebtedness. And such taxes, so ordered, shall be assessed  
18 by the assessors of said district on the taxable inhabitants and property therein according to the last

1 valuation made by the assessors of the town of Coventry next previous to said assessment, adding,  
2 however, any taxable property which may have been omitted by said town assessors or afterwards  
3 acquired; and in assessing and collecting said taxes such proceedings shall be had by the officers  
4 of said district, as near as may be, as are required to be had by the corresponding officers of towns  
5 in assessing and collecting taxes.

6 (b) The qualified voters of the Central Coventry Fire District are also authorized to raise  
7 money through taxes to purchase the necessary vehicles and equipment to operate and maintain a  
8 rescue unit to be known as the Central Coventry Rescue.

9 (c) TAX ASSESSOR

10 There shall be at least one District Tax Assessor, who may also serve as District Clerk,  
11 who shall be appointed or employed by the District. The tax assessor shall levy and assess taxes at  
12 such rate as the district shall vote, on all taxable real and personal property in the district and shall  
13 prepare and deposit the tax list with the tax collector and treasurer of the district; said board shall  
14 assess property on the basis of the last valuation made by the assessors of the Town of Coventry  
15 next previous to said assessment.

16 Sec. 9 DISTRICT TREASURER

17 There shall be a District Treasurer who shall be appointed or employed by the District. The  
18 Treasurer shall receive all money paid to the District and deposit the same in such federally insured  
19 bank or banking system as shall be designated by the Board of Directors to the credit of the District,  
20 provided that in the event of a surplus of funds, the Board of Directors may direct deposits to be  
21 made in a savings account in some federally insured banking institution. The Treasurer shall sign  
22 all duly authorized distinct notes and bonds, ~~and~~ The District Treasurer shall be bonded in an  
23 amount to be determined by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall pay all District obligations  
24 by check, as approved by the Board of Directors and shall close the books as of the last day of each  
25 fiscal year. The Treasurer shall submit a report to the Board of Directors monthly. The Treasurer  
26 shall at every annual meeting, fully report the condition of the treasury of the District, showing  
27 receipts and expenditures of the preceding year.

28 Sec. 12 AUTHORIZATION TO BORROW FUNDS

29 The Central Coventry fire district is hereby authorized and empowered to borrow from  
30 time to time such sums of money as may be necessary, not however, to exceed in the aggregate the  
31 outstanding principal sum of one-half (1/2) of the annual operating budget, for the purpose of  
32 procuring real and personal estate, the erection and maintenance of buildings, the procuring of fire  
33 and water apparatus, the procuring of street lighting apparatus, for the payment of any legal  
34 indebtedness of said district, or for the purpose of purchasing or procuring any other property, real

1 or personal, that may be legally acquired and held by said district.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 492 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 2006 AMENDING THE  
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- 1           This act would amend several sections of the Central Coventry Fire District Charter to
- 2 provide for the purchasing, installation, operation, and maintenance of street lighting and would
- 3 provide funding for indebtedness of the Central Coventry Rescue.
- 4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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