

2010 -- S 2391

LC00896

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

Introduced By: Senators Lenihan, Sheehan, E O'Neill, Algieri, and Bates

Date Introduced: February 11, 2010

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

1 RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general
2 assembly voting therefore, 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 place of Article III, Section 8 which is hereby
5 amended to read as follows:

6 SECTION 8. ~~Ethics commission—Code of ethics. Jurisdiction.~~ Ethics Commission –
7 Code of Ethics. Jurisdiction - The general assembly shall establish an independent non-partisan
8 ethics commission which shall adopt a code of ethics including, but not limited to, provisions on
9 conflicts of interest, confidential information, use of position, contracts with government agencies
10 and financial disclosure. All elected and appointed officials and employees of state and local
11 government, of boards, commissions and agencies shall be subject to the code of ethics and the
12 jurisdiction of the ethics commission. The ethics commission shall have the jurisdiction and
13 authority to investigate and adjudicate all alleged violations of the code of ethics, including acts
14 otherwise protected by Article IV, Section 5 and to impose penalties, as provided by law; and the
15 commission shall have the power to remove from office officials who are not subject to
16 impeachment.

17 RESOLVED, That this amendment shall take, in the Constitution of the state, the place of
18 Article III, Section 8 of the Constitution; it is further

19 RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general

1 assembly voting therefore, the following amendment to the Constitution of the state be proposed
2 to the qualified electors of the state in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of the
3 Constitution for their approval and that it take place of Article VI, Section 5 which is hereby
4 amended to read as follows:

5 SECTION 5. Immunities of general assembly members – The persons of all members of
6 the general assembly shall be exempt from arrest and their estates from attachment in any civil
7 action, during the session of the general assembly, and two days before the commencement and
8 two days after the termination thereof, and all process served contrary hereto shall be void. For
9 any speech in debate in either house, no member shall be questioned in any other place except by
10 the ethics commission as set forth in Article III, Section 8 of this Constitution.

11 RESOLVED, That this amendment shall take, in the Constitution of the state, the place of
12 Article VI, Section 5 of the Constitution; it is further

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

17 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the said proposition of amendments
18 to be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the
19 said meetings of the said electors; and the said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or
20 notices to be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town,
21 ward, or district meetings, and said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, and district
22 meetings to be held as aforesaid; and be it further

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

=====
LC00896
=====