

2016 -- S 2901

LC005635

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

JOINT RESOLUTION

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

Introduced By: Senators Pagliarini, and Algiere

Date Introduced: April 07, 2016

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 to
3 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 III, Section 8 which is hereby
5 amended, effective on January 1, 2017, to read as follows:

6 ARTICLE III

7 OF QUALIFICATION FOR OFFICE

8 Section 8. Ethics commission -- Code of ethics. -- The general assembly shall establish an
9 independent non-partisan ethics commission which shall adopt a code of ethics including, but not
10 limited to, provisions on conflicts of interest, confidential information, use of position, contract
11 with government agencies and financial disclosure. All elected and appointed officials and
12 employees of state and local government, of boards, commissions and agencies shall be subject to
13 the code of ethics. The ethics commission shall have the authority to investigate violations of the
14 code of ethics, excepting those privileged activities essential to the legislative process, as
15 determined by the supreme court if so requested, and to impose penalties, as provided by law; and
16 the commission shall have the power to remove from office officials who are not subject to
17 impeachment or to Article VI, Section 7.

18 RESOLVED, That this amendment shall take, in the constitution of the state, the place of
19 Section 8 of Article III, effective January 1, 2017; and be it further

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

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

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

15 RESOLVED, That the question set forth to the qualified electors of the state relating to
16 Article III of the Constitution, shall appear on the ballots provided to the qualified electors of the
17 state as the second referendum question.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

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AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE-STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

- 1 This resolution would authorize a proposition to amend the provisions of Article III,
- 2 Section 8, of the state constitution. More specifically, this amendment would except certain
- 3 privileged activities essential to the investigative authority of the state ethics commission.

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