

2016 -- S 2974

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO THE CUMBERLAND FIRE DISTRICT

Introduced By: Senators Pearson, and Picard

Date Introduced: May 10, 2016

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(by request)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 3 of Chapter 505 of the 2013 Public Laws entitled "An Act Relating
2 To The Consolidation Of The Cumberland, North Cumberland, Cumberland Hill, And Valley
3 Falls Fire Districts Into The Cumberland Fire District" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 Section 3. Governing Body

5 The initial governing body of the consolidated Cumberland Fire District shall be a Fire
6 Committee. Membership on said committee shall be a public office. Members shall hold no other
7 public office. If any member shall hold any other public office, their office as a member of said
8 committee shall immediately become vacant.

9 Beginning no later than November of 2014, with the regularly scheduled general election,
10 seven (7) members of the Cumberland Fire Committee shall be elected. Each of the five (5)
11 council districts shall elect one member, with two (2) members being elected from the town at
12 large. It shall be a non-partisan election for a two (2) year term. The winning candidates shall be
13 sworn in immediately after the election results are certified. Any vacancy in the membership of
14 the Committee shall be filled by written ballot of a majority of all the members of the Town
15 Council for the remainder of the term of office, provided that the person selected to fill said
16 vacancy shall be a qualified elector from that district. A vacancy in said membership of the
17 Committee shall occur if a member dies, resigns from office, ceases to be a resident and/or elector
18 of the district in which elected, or shall be absent for four (4) consecutive regular meetings or six
19 (6) regular meetings within a twelve (12) month period unless said absence(s) are excused by a

1 majority vote of the whole Committee. Any and all elections, provided for under this act, shall be
2 governed by, and subject to, the provisions of title 17 and shall be administered by the state board
3 of elections and the town of Cumberland board of canvassers.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage. Provided that any individual elected
5 to said committee prior to November 5, 2014, shall be eligible to serve on both said committee
6 and the local town council until the next succeeding election.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO THE CUMBERLAND FIRE DISTRICT

1 This act would establish that membership on the Cumberland Fire District Fire
2 Committee constitutes holding a public office and that the elections of the Fire Committee are
3 governed by state election laws.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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