

2023 -- S 1031

LC003030

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF  
THE TOWN OF COVENTRY

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, and Rogers

Date Introduced: May 19, 2023

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. In all respects in which the amendments to the home rule charter of the town  
2 of Coventry, which amendments were adopted and approved by the electors of the town of  
3 Coventry on November 8, 2022, may require ratification, confirmation, validation, or enactment  
4 by the general assembly, but in no other respects, the provisions of said amendments to the home  
5 rule charter of the town of Coventry are hereby ratified, confirmed, validated, and enacted. It is the  
6 express intention of the general assembly, by the passage of this act, to give effect to, ratify,  
7 confirm, validate, and enact those provisions of the said amendments to the home rule charter of  
8 the town of Coventry that require ratification, confirmation, validation, or enactment and, by the  
9 passage of this act, the legislature does hereby ratify, confirm, validate, and enact said provisions.  
10 Nothing in this act shall be construed to abrogate or impair the powers now or hereafter granted to  
11 towns by the home rule amendment and other applicable laws of the State of Rhode Island or those  
12 rights retained by said town of Coventry in its home rule charter.

13           SECTION 2. If any provision of this act, or the application thereof, to the town of Coventry  
14 or to any person or circumstances, is deemed invalid for any reason, the remainder of this act, or  
15 the application of such provision, to aid town or other persons or circumstances, shall not be  
16 affected thereby and, to this end, the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

17           SECTION 3. Section 16-2-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-2 entitled "School  
18 Committees and Superintendents [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of Education

1 Act]" is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 **16-2-5. Composition of city or town school committees — Election and terms of**  
3 **members — Vacancies.**

4 The school committee of each city or town shall consist of three (3) residents of the city or  
5 town, or of any number as at the present time constitute the committee. In cities or towns having  
6 annual elections of city or town officers the committee shall be divided as equally as may be into  
7 three (3) classes whose several terms of office shall expire at the end of three (3) years from the  
8 dates of their respective elections. In cities or towns having biennial elections the committee shall  
9 be divided as equally as may be into two (2) classes whose several terms of office shall expire at  
10 the end of four (4) years from the dates of their respective elections. As the office of each class  
11 shall become vacant, the vacancy or vacancies shall be filled by the city or town at its regular city  
12 or town meeting for the election of state or city or town officers, or by the city or town council at  
13 its next meeting after this. In case of a vacancy by death, resignation, or otherwise than as is  
14 provided in this section, the vacancy shall be filled by the city or town council until the next regular  
15 city or town meeting for the election of state or city or town officers, when it shall be filled for the  
16 unexpired term as is provided in this section. This section shall not apply to the cities of Providence,  
17 Central Falls, Woonsocket, or the ~~Town~~ towns of Coventry and North Smithfield.

18 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF  
THE TOWN OF COVENTRY

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1           This act would validate and ratify amendments to the Home Rule Charter of the town of  
2 Coventry, which amendments were adopted and approved by the electors of the town of Coventry  
3 on November 8, 2022.

4           This act would also provide an exception that the school committee members serve four  
5 (4) year terms.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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