

2026 -- H 7782

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- CONDUCT OF ELECTION AND VOTING EQUIPMENT,
AND SUPPLIES

Introduced By: Representatives Boylan, Knight, Kazarian, Dawson, Shallcross Smith,
Tanzi, and Speakman

Date Introduced: February 12, 2026

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

(Board of Elections)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-19-37 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-19 entitled "Conduct of
2 Election and Voting Equipment, and Supplies" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-19-37. ~~Tabulation of state returns — Certificate of election.~~ Tabulation of state**
4 **and federal returns – Certificate of election.**

5 The state board shall proceed to tabulate the state and federal election returns and declare
6 the results as provided in chapter 22 of this title, and any candidate at the election challenging the
7 result as applied to him or her may petition the board within ~~seven (7)~~ nine (9) days after the
8 declaration to conduct a recount of the votes cast in the candidate's election according to the
9 provisions set forth in § 17-19-37.1. After the completion of the recount, and as soon as it can do
10 so consistent with its other duties, the state board shall issue a certificate of election to the state and
11 federal candidate it determines to have been elected.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

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1 This act would increase from seven (7) days to nine (9) days the period of time in which a
2 request for a recount of the votes cast can be made to the board of elections. No certificates of
3 election may be issued, until the recount if any is completed.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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