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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 -- FEDERAL ELECTIVE OFFICERS

Introduced By: Representative Brian C. Newberry

Date Introduced: February 12, 2026

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 17-4-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-4 entitled "Federal  
2 Elective Officers" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **17-4-10. Presidential electors — Time and manner of voting — Election by plurality.**

4           (a) The people of this state, qualified by law to vote for general offices, shall elect as many  
5 electors of president and vice-president of the United States that the state is or shall be entitled to  
6 at town, ward, and district meetings on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, in  
7 every fourth (4th) year, commencing in 1960, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 19 of  
8 this title, and the several candidates having a plurality of the legal votes given in at the election  
9 shall be elected.

10           (b) For purposes of electing presidential electors, the state shall be divided into four (4)  
11 groups of municipalities of approximately equal populations, created during the redistricting  
12 process. There shall be one group for each elected member of congress. Votes cast by each group's  
13 voters shall be tallied, with the winner of each group, awarded one electoral vote. The number of  
14 municipality groups shall be based upon the number of electoral votes Rhode Island is entitled to  
15 receive, through the redistricting process.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would change the manner by which presidential electoral college electors are  
2   elected. It would create a system of grouping of municipalities of equal populations, one of each of  
3   Rhode Island's electoral votes, with the winner of each group for the presidential elections each  
4   group receiving one electoral vote.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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