

2021 -- H 5635

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION
OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION (ELECTIONS)

Introduced By: Representatives Kislak, Cortvriend, Speakman, Ajello, Alzate, Morales,
Felix, Henries, and Donovan

Date Introduced: February 19, 2021

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

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 II, Section 1 which is hereby
5 amended to read as follows:

6 SECTION 1. Persons entitled to vote. Every citizen of the United States of the age of
7 ~~eighteen~~ sixteen years or over who has had residence and home in this state for thirty days next
8 preceding the time of voting, who has resided thirty days in the town or city from which such
9 citizen desires to vote, and whose name shall be registered at least thirty days next preceding the
10 time of voting as provided by law, shall have the right to vote for all offices to be elected and on
11 all questions submitted to the electors, except that no person who has been lawfully adjudicated to
12 be non compos mentis shall be permitted to vote. No person who is incarcerated in a correctional
13 facility upon a felony conviction shall be permitted to vote until such person is discharged from
14 the facility. Upon discharge, such person's right to vote shall be restored. The general assembly
15 may provide by law for shorter state and local residence requirements to vote for electors for
16 president and vice president of the United States.

17 RESOLVED, That this amendment shall take, in the Constitution of the state, the place of
18 Section 1, Article II of the Constitution; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendment shall be submitted to the electors

1 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election. The voting places in the
2 several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours required by law for voting therein for
3 general officers of the state; and be it further

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

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

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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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- 1 This resolution would propose an amendment to the constitution to modify the legal
- 2 minimum age to vote from eighteen (18) years to sixteen (16) years.

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