

2012 -- H 8093

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LC02499
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS

Introduced By: Representative Anastasia P. Williams

Date Introduced: April 26, 2012

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 26 of the 2012 Public Laws entitled “AN ACT RELATING TO
2 ELECTIONS” is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-11-1. Division of towns and representative district into voting districts. --** The
4 local board of any city or town may, on or before the sixtieth (60th) day preceding any election,
5 divide or redivide the city or town, or any representative district in the city or town, into voting
6 districts. The local board of each city or town shall determine voting districts by geographical
7 boundaries and by no other means. No voting district shall at any time comprise parts of two (2)
8 or more wards. It shall be the duty of the board to divide the city or town, representative district,
9 or ward, so that substantially not more than three thousand (3000) total eligible registered voters
10 shall be served by the same polling place; provided, however, that any divisions conducted by the
11 local board pursuant to this section shall not result in creating a polling place serving less than
12 five hundred (500) total eligible registered voters, except [when a polling place is located in a low-](#)
13 [income or elderly residential development, or](#) when it is caused by legislative district boundaries;
14 [and provided, further, that no existing polling place which is presently located in a low-income or](#)
15 [elderly residential development shall be eliminated.](#) Upon the establishment and approval of any
16 polling place by the state board, changes to the polling place shall not be allowed until the next
17 redistricting by the general assembly, unless the polling place becomes unavailable to the city or
18 town, or no longer meets polling place minimum requirements as established by the state board,
19 then the city or town may take the appropriate action to replace the polling place. A polling place

1 may be located either within or without the voting district for which it is established; provided,
2 that a polling place may be located outside the district only upon unanimous determination of the
3 local board and subject to the approval of the state board that a suitable place is not available
4 within the voting district.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

1 This act would amend Chapter 26 of the 2012 Public Laws entitled “AN ACT
2 RELATING TO ELECTIONS” by exempting polling places which are located in a low-income
3 or elderly residential development from the minimum requirement of at least five hundred (500)
4 total eligible registered voters required to constitute a polling place, and would preserve those
5 existing polling places which are presently located in such low-income or elderly residential
6 developments.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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