

**2012 -- S 2489 SUBSTITUTE A AS AMENDED**

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LC01472/SUB A/2  
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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: Senators Doyle, Bates, Crowley, and Nesselbush

Date Introduced: February 16, 2012

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 17-11-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-11 entitled "Voting  
2 Districts and Officials" 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 ~~nineteen hundred (1900)~~ three thousand (3,000) total  
10 eligible registered voters shall be served by the same polling place; provided, ~~that subject to the~~  
11 ~~approval of the state board, a local board may provide for serving more than nineteen hundred~~  
12 ~~(1900) voters in the same polling place where the effect to the contrary would be of~~ however, that  
13 any divisions conducted by the local board pursuant to this section shall not result in creating a  
14 polling place serving less than ~~one hundred fifty (150)~~ five hundred (500) total eligible registered  
15 voters, except when it is caused by legislative district boundaries. Upon the establishment and  
16 approval of any polling place by the state board, changes to the polling place shall not be allowed  
17 until the next redistricting by the general assembly, unless the polling place becomes unavailable  
18 to the city or town, or no longer meets polling place minimum requirements as established by the  
19 state board, then the city or town may take the appropriate action to replace the polling place.

1           A polling place may be located either within or without the voting district for which it is  
2 established; provided, that a polling place may be located outside the district only upon  
3 unanimous determination of the local board and subject to the approval of the state board that a  
4 suitable place is not available within the voting district. ~~In making the calculation required by this  
5 section, voters whose names are on the inactive list of voters shall not be included.~~

6           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on May 1, 2012 and shall be applicable to the 2012  
7 state and federal primary and general election.

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

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1           This act would increase the maximum number of active voters served by the same polling  
2 place from 1,900 voters to 3,000 as long as the effect would not result in a voting place serving  
3 less than 500 voters, except when it is caused by legislative district boundaries.

4           This act would take effect on May 1, 2012 and would be applicable to the 2012 state and  
5 federal primary and general elections.

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