

2012 -- S 2806

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

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

Introduced By: Senator John J. Tassoni

Date Introduced: March 21, 2012

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general
2 assembly voting therefore, the following amendment to the Constitution of the state be proposed
3 to 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 **ARTICLE II**

7 **OF SUFFRAGE**

8 **Section 1.** Persons entitled to vote. -- Every citizen of the United States of the age of
9 eighteen years or over who has had residence and home in this state for thirty days next preceding
10 the time of voting, who has resided thirty days in the town or city from which such citizen desires
11 to vote, and whose name shall be registered at least thirty days next preceding the time of voting
12 as provided by law, shall have the right to vote for all offices to be elected and on all questions
13 submitted to the electors, except that no person who has been lawfully adjudicated to be non
14 compos mentis shall be permitted to vote. [Every permanent legal resident alien of the United](#)
15 [States of the age of eighteen years or over who has had residence and home in this state for thirty](#)
16 [days next preceding the time of voting, who has resided thirty days in the town or city from](#)
17 [which such citizen desires to vote, and whose name shall be registered at least thirty days next](#)
18 [preceding the time of voting as provided by law, shall have the right to vote for all statewide and](#)
19 [local offices to be elected and on statewide and local questions submitted to the electors, except](#)

1 [that no person who has been lawfully adjudicated to be non compos mentis shall be permitted to](#)
2 [vote.](#) No person who is incarcerated in a correctional facility upon a felony conviction shall be
3 permitted to vote until such person is discharged from the facility. Upon discharge, such person's
4 right to vote shall be restored. The general assembly may provide by law for shorter state and
5 local residence requirements to vote for electors for president and vice president of the United
6 States.

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

9 RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendment shall be submitted to the electors
10 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election. The voting places in the
11 several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours required by law for voting therein for
12 general officers of the state; and

13 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the said proposition of amendment to
14 be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the said
15 meeting of the said electors; and the said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or notices to
16 be issued previous to said meeting of the electors for the purpose of warning the city, town, ward,
17 or district meetings and said proposition shall be read by the city, town, ward or district meetings
18 to be held as aforesaid; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the city, town, ward or district meetings to be held aforesaid shall be
20 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said city, town, ward and
21 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the city,
22 town, ward and district meetings for the election of general officers of the state.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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- 1 This proposed constitutional amendment would, if approved by the voters, amend the
- 2 Rhode Island Constitution to entitle a legal permanent resident to vote in all statewide and local
- 3 elections.

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