

2013 -- H 5495

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LC01283
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE, PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (MAJORITY VOTE
REQUIREMENT FOR GOVERNOR'S ELECTION

Introduced By: Representative Spencer E. Dickinson

Date Introduced: February 14, 2013

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, The proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 2, of the Constitution of the
2 State is intended to resolve that successful candidates for governor receive a majority of votes
3 cast.

4 RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general
5 assembly voting therefore, the following amendment to the Constitution of the State be proposed
6 to the qualified electors of the state in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of the
7 Constitution for their approval and the following section is hereby amended, effective January 1,
8 [2015](#) read as follows:

9 ARTICLE IV

10 OF ELECTIONS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

11 Section 2. Election by [majority or](#) plurality. – [\(a\) Except as provided in Article IV,](#)
12 [sections 2 \(b\) and \(c\) of this constitution, in ~~It~~](#) all elections held by the people for state, city,
13 town, ward or district officers, the person or candidate receiving the largest number of votes cast
14 shall be declared elected.

15 **[\(b\) Commencing with any election for governor of the state held on or after January 1,](#)**
16 **[2015, in elections for governor of the state, if no person receives a majority of the votes cast for](#)**
17 **[governor, the board of elections shall declare that no person has been elected. A run-off election](#)**
18 **[shall be held and the two \(2\) persons who received the greatest number of votes for governor in](#)**
19 **[the general election shall be the candidates in the run-off election. The person who receives the](#)**

1 majority part of the votes in the run-off election shall be declared to be elected governor of the
2 state. The procedure for determining the results for the vote for governor in the run-off election
3 shall be the same as the procedure for determining the results of the vote in the general election.

4 RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendments shall be submitted to the electors
5 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election. The voting places in the
6 several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours required by law for voting therein for
7 general officers of the state; and be if further

8 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the said proposition of amendments
9 to be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the
10 said meetings of the said electors and the said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, or
11 district meetings to be held as a foresaid; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the town, ward, and district meetings to be held aforesaid shall be
13 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and
14 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,
15 ward, and district meetings for the election 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

TO APPROVE, PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (MAJORITY VOTE
REQUIREMENT FOR GOVERNOR'S ELECTION

- 1 This amendment to the constitution of the state, if adopted, would provide for run-off
- 2 elections for governor if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast in the November
- 3 general election.

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