

2013 -- S 0329

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LC01043
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Cote, Walaska, Kettle, and Ottiano

Date Introduced: February 13, 2013

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-9.1-24 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-9.1 entitled
2 "Registration of Voters" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-9.1-24. Change of designation.** -- (a) Any person who has designated his or her party
4 affiliation pursuant to section 17-9.1-23 may change the designation on or before the ~~ninetieth~~
5 ~~(90th)~~ twenty-ninth (29th) day preceding any primary election for which the person is eligible.
6 Whenever any person desires to change his or her party designation, that person shall appear
7 before the local board of the city or town in which that person has his or her residence as defined
8 in section 17-1-3.1, or before the clerk or other authorized agent of the board, and shall change
9 his or her party designation and, after the information has been recorded on the form furnished for
10 that purpose, the person shall sign his or her name and certify to the truth of the facts recorded in
11 the appropriate spaces in the form; or the person shall furnish an affidavit properly executed and
12 signed by him or her to the board directing the board to change the party designation. Whenever
13 any person is unable to sign his or her name because of physical incapacity or otherwise, that
14 person shall make his or her mark "(X)", which shall be witnessed by the person receiving the
15 registration. For the convenience of persons voting at a primary election, affidavits for changing
16 party designation shall be available at all primary polling places. The presence of the affidavits at
17 the primary polling place shall not be construed to allow a person to change his or her party
18 designation within ~~ninety (90)~~ twenty-nine (29) days preceding the primary election.

19 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, affidavits for

1 changing party designation which are executed by voters at polling places immediately after
2 voting in primary elections conducted in the city of Warwick in January, 2000, shall take effect
3 immediately.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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- 1 This act would reduce the waiting period required for disaffiliation with a political party
- 2 from 90 days to 29 days.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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