

**2013 -- S 0627 AS AMENDED**

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LC01171  
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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 - MAIL BALLOTS

Introduced By: Senators Jabour, Pearson, and Metts

Date Introduced: March 06, 2013

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(Secretary of State)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 17-20-16, 17-20-21 and 17-20-22 of the General Laws in Chapter  
2 17-20 entitled "Mail Ballots" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **17-20-16. Time of casting vote.** -- Mail ballots may be cast in the manner provided by  
4 law on or before election day; provided, that no mail ballot shall be counted unless it is received  
5 by the state board not later than ~~nine o'clock (9:00) p.m. local time~~ [the time prescribed by section](#)  
6 [17-18-11 for the closing of polling places](#) on election day.

7           **17-20-21. Certifying envelopes.** -- The secretary of state shall cause to be prepared and  
8 printed and shall furnish with each mail ballot an envelope for sealing up and certifying the ballot  
9 when returned. The envelope shall be printed in substantially the following form:

10           "After marking ballot or ballots, fold and enclose in this envelope and seal it. Certify to  
11 statement hereon. Enclose in envelope addressed to board of elections, which must receive the  
12 envelope not later than nine o'clock (9:00) p.m. [the time prescribed by section 17-18-11 for the](#)  
13 [closing of polling places on](#) the day of election."

14           Date of Election: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town

15           of: \_\_\_\_\_

16           Certificate of Voter

17           Print Name of Voter

18           I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that I am:

19           • I am a United States citizen;

- 1 • I am a resident and qualified voter of the State of Rhode Island;
- 2 • I am eligible to cast a mail ballot under the provisions of section 17-20-2; and
- 3 • I am not qualified to vote elsewhere.

4 Voter must sign full name here: \_\_\_\_\_

5 (If unable to sign name because of physical incapacity or otherwise, voter shall make his  
6 or her mark "(X)").

7 I hereby attest under penalty of perjury that the enclosed voted ballot was cast, and the  
8 signature or mark on this certifying envelope was made by the voter whose name appears on the  
9 label above.

10 Before me the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_\_, at  
11 \_\_\_\_\_ (city or town), county of \_\_\_\_\_, state of  
12 \_\_\_\_\_, personally appeared the above named voter, to me known and known  
13 by me to be the person who affixed his or her signature to this ballot envelope.

14 \_\_\_\_\_

15 Notary Public

16 Notary must also print his or her name

17 Witness:

18 \_\_\_\_\_

19 (Signature)(Print Name) ~~(Residence)~~(Address)

20 \_\_\_\_\_

21 (Signature)(Print Name) (Address)

22 Note: Mail ballots must either be sworn to before a notary public or before two (2)  
23 witnesses who must sign their names and addresses.

24 **17-20-22. Certification envelopes for mail ballots of persons intimately connected**  
25 **with military service and persons employed outside of the United States. --** The distinctively  
26 colored certification envelope for persons intimately connected with military service and persons  
27 employed outside of the United States shall be printed in substantially the following form:

28 After marking ballot or ballots, fold and enclose in this envelope and seal it. Certify to  
29 statement hereon. Enclose in envelope addressed to board of elections, which must receive the  
30 envelope not later than ~~nine o'clock (9:00) p.m.~~ the time prescribed by section 17-18-11 for the  
31 closing of polling places on the day of election.

32 Date of Election \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_

33 Oath of Elector Casting the Enclosed

34 Ballot or Ballots

1           Print Name

2           I do hereby affirm, under penalty of perjury that:

3           • I am a United States citizen;

4           • I am a resident and qualified voter of the State of Rhode Island;

5           • I am eligible to cast a mail ballot, because I am one of the following:

6           • A member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty or an eligible  
7 spouse or dependent.

8           • A U.S. citizen who will be outside the United States.

9           • I am not qualified to vote elsewhere.

10          \_\_\_\_\_

11          (Signature of voter)

12          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 require that mail ballots be returned to the state board of elections by the
- 2 closing time of the polls established by law on election day.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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