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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 CITIES AND TOWNS - THE CENTRAL COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT

Introduced By: Senator Nicholas D. Kettle

Date Introduced: April 04, 2013

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. WHEREAS, The Central Coventry Fire District has been placed in  
2 receivership by the Kent County Superior Court in a civil action which is presently pending in  
3 said court; and

4           WHEREAS, The Court has ordered that the Central Coventry Fire District be liquidated;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, It is necessary to protect the health and safety of the citizens residing in the  
7 Central Coventry Fire District; and

8           WHEREAS, The Court ordered that tax bills be mailed to the residents of the Central  
9 Coventry Fire District in order to fund the operation of the fire district for the period commencing  
10 September 1, 2012 and ending August 30, 2013, notwithstanding the fact that the residents of  
11 such fire district had not approved a tax levy for said period; and

12           WHEREAS, There remains uncollected amounts from said mailing; and

13           WHEREAS, The Central Coventry Fire District is located entirely in the town of  
14 Coventry; and

15           WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of the residents of the Central Coventry Fire District  
16 in the town of Coventry that the town collect the balance due on the tax bills mailed to the  
17 residents as ordered by the court, for the purpose of temporarily providing fire and EMT services  
18 for said residents, in order that a permanent plan can be put into effect for providing such  
19 services.

1 Now, therefore, it is hereby enacted as follows:

2 (1) The town of Coventry is hereby authorized and directed to collect the balance of all  
3 uncollected amounts resulting from the mailing of tax bills to the residents of the Central  
4 Coventry Fire District ordered by the Kent County Superior Court to fund the operation of the  
5 Central Coventry Fire District until such time as a permanent plan can be adopted providing fire  
6 and EMT services to the residents of the Central Coventry Fire District.

7 (2) Such mailing of tax bills ordered by the court shall constitute a tax levy upon the  
8 property located and taxable in the Central Coventry Fire District.

9 (3) The town of Coventry shall use any amounts collected under paragraph (1) of this Act  
10 to temporarily provide fire and EMT services to the residents of the Central Coventry Fire  
11 District. The town of Coventry may contract with any independent entities in order to provide  
12 said services.

13 (4) In no event shall the town of Coventry expend any sums in excess of the balance due  
14 with respect to the tax levy set forth in subsection (2) of this Act.

15 SECTION 2. Pursuant to Article XII, section 4 of the Rhode Island Constitution, the  
16 following question shall be submitted by the local board of canvassers to the qualified electors of  
17 the Central Coventry Fire District in the town of Coventry at a special election to be scheduled by  
18 the Coventry town council on or before June 1, 2013, and the results thereof shall be certified to  
19 the secretary of state:

20 "Shall an act be approved which would authorize the town of Coventry to levy and then  
21 collect the tax and/or the balance due of all uncollected amounts resulting from the mailing of tax  
22 bills to the residents of the Central Coventry Fire District for the tax year commencing September  
23 1, 2012 and ending August 30, 2013 for the purpose of funding the operation of the Central  
24 Coventry Fire District up to and including September 1, 2013?"

25 SECTION 3. Sections 1 and 3 of this act shall take effect upon passage. Section 2 shall  
26 take effect upon approval of the majority of the affected voters voting on said question.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO CITIES AND TOWNS - THE CENTRAL COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT

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1           This act would authorize the Coventry town council to levy and collect taxes upon the  
2 residents of the Central Coventry Fire District for fire and EMT services up to and including  
3 September 1, 2013, subject to the approval of the qualified electors of the Central Coventry Fire  
4 District at a special election to be scheduled on or before June 1, 2013 by the Coventry town  
5 council.

6           Sections 1 and 3 of this act would take effect upon passage. Section 2 would take effect  
7 upon approval of the majority of the affected voters voting on said question.

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