

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE -- PROCEDURE TO FILL VACANCY IN OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, THE SECRETARY OF STATE, ATTORNEY GENERAL OR GENERAL TREASURER

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Sheehan, Cote, E O`Neill, and Kettle

Date Introduced: January 21, 2014

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

1           RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general  
2 assembly voting therefor, the following amendment to the Constitution of the state be proposed to  
3 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 IV Section 4 which is hereby  
5 amended to read as follows:

6                                                 ARTICLE IV

7                                                 OF ELECTIONS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

8           SECTION 4. ~~Temporary appointment~~ Procedure to fill vacancies in office of lieutenant  
9 governor, secretary of state, attorney general, or general treasurer. – Special elections to fill  
10 vacancies in office of lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney-general, or general  
11 treasurer. – (a) In case of a vacancy in the office of the lieutenant governor, the secretary of  
12 state, attorney-general, or general treasurer ~~from~~ for any ~~cause~~, reason, if there are less than two  
13 (2) years remaining in the term of the office, the general assembly in grand committee shall elect  
14 some person to fill the same; provided, that if such vacancy occurs when the general assembly is  
15 not in session the governor shall appoint some person to fill such vacancy until a successor  
16 elected by the general assembly is qualified to act.

17                         (b) In case of a vacancy in the office of the lieutenant governor, the secretary of state,  
18 attorney general, or general treasurer for any reason, if there are two (2) or more years remaining

1 in the term of the office a new election shall be held for the purpose of filling the vacancy. The  
2 general assembly shall provide by general law for the holding of such elections. Every person  
3 elected in accordance with this section shall hold office for the remainder of the term or for the  
4 full term, as the case may be, of the office which that person is elected to fill and until a successor  
5 is elected and qualified.

6           RESOLVED, That this amendment shall take, in the Constitution of the state, the place of  
7 Article IV Section 4 of the Constitution;

8           It is 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 be it further

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 meetings of the said electors; and the said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or notices  
16 to be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town, ward,  
17 or district meetings and said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, or district meetings to  
18 be held as aforesaid; and be it further

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

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1           This resolution would present to the electors a Rhode Island constitutional amendment  
2    which would provide the procedure to fill vacancies in the offices of lieutenant governor,  
3    secretary of state, attorney general or general treasurer. Said procedure would empower the  
4    general assembly to fill vacancies with less than two (2) years remaining in the term and require a  
5    special election to fill vacancies with two (2) or more years remaining in the term.

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