

2015 -- S 0436

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LC001620
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE, PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS--A PROPOSITION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (MAJORITY VOTE
REQUIREMENT THROUGH INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING FOR GENERAL OFFICERS'
ELECTION)

Introduced By: Senators Morgan, Kettle, Gee, Lombardi, and E O`Neill

Date Introduced: February 25, 2015

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, The proposed amendment to Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution of the
2 State is intended to ensure that successful candidates for state general offices receive a majority
3 of votes cast;

4 RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general
5 assembly voting therefor, 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 2017, to read as follows:

9 ARTICLE IV

10 OF ELECTIONS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

11 Section 2. Election by majority or plurality. – In all elections held by the people for state
12 general officers, only those persons or candidates receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be
13 declared elected. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, then an instant runoff
14 voting system shall be employed to determine the winner of the election. In all other elections
15 held by the people for state, city, town, ward or district officers, the person or candidate receiving
16 the largest number of votes cast shall be declared elected.

17 RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendments shall be submitted to the electors
18 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election. The voting places in the

1 several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours required by law for voting therein for
2 general officers of the state; and be if further

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

7 RESOLVED, That the town, ward, and district meetings to be held aforesaid shall be
8 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and
9 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,
10 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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AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (MAJORITY VOTE
REQUIREMENT THROUGH INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING FOR GENERAL OFFICERS'
ELECTION)

1 This proposed amendment to the state constitution, if approved, would require that all
2 winning candidates for election to general office receive a majority of the votes cast. If no
3 candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, then an instant runoff voting system would be
4 employed to determine the winner of the election.

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