

2016 -- H 8080

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Introduced By: Representatives McEntee, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: April 14, 2016

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 17-18-15 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-18 entitled "Elective  
2 Meetings" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **17-18-15. Closing of schools. --** ~~At each general election as defined in § 17-1-2(2) and~~  
4 ~~statewide primary as defined in § 17-15-1, all public elementary and secondary schools~~  
5 ~~throughout the state shall not be in session. On the day of the general election and statewide~~  
6 ~~primary, the use of school buildings or premises shall be restricted to use only as polling places~~  
7 ~~for election purposes. Notwithstanding the previous provisions, school staff development days~~  
8 ~~may be held. Provided further, that the provisions of this section shall not be applicable to the~~  
9 ~~Block Island School, located in the town of New Shoreham, and the use of the Block Island~~  
10 ~~School shall not be restricted, nor shall classes need to be cancelled or postponed at said school,~~  
11 ~~on the day of general elections and statewide primaries. The decision as to whether a municipal~~  
12 ~~school will be closed on the day of a particular scheduled election shall be made by each~~  
13 ~~individual municipal or regional school department(s).~~

14           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2017.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO ELECTIONS - SCHOOL CLOSINGS

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1           This act would grant to each individual municipal school department the power to  
2 determine whether their schools would be open on a particular scheduled election day.

3           This act would take effect on January 1, 2017.

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