

2016 -- S 2311

LC003096

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Cote, E O'Neill, Pagliarini, and Morgan

Date Introduced: February 09, 2016

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 17-9.1-24 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-9.1 entitled "Registration of Voters" is hereby amended to read as follows:

**17-9.1-24. Change of designation.** -- (a) Any person who has designated his or her party affiliation pursuant to § 17-9.1-23 may change the designation on or before the ~~ninetieth (90th)~~ twenty-ninth day preceding any primary election for which the person is eligible. Whenever any person desires to change his or her party designation, that person shall appear before the local board of the city or town in which that person has his or her residence, as defined in § 17-1-3.1, or before the clerk or other duly authorized agent of the board, and shall change his or her party designation and, after the information has been recorded on the form furnished for that purpose, the person shall sign his or her name and certify to the truth of the facts recorded in the appropriate spaces in the form; or the person shall furnish an affidavit properly executed and signed by him or her to the board directing the board to change the party designation. Whenever any person is unable to sign his or her name because of physical incapacity or otherwise, that person shall make his or her mark "(X)", which shall be witnessed by the person receiving the registration. For the convenience of persons voting at a primary election, affidavits for changing party designation shall be available at all primary polling places. The presence of the affidavits at the primary polling place shall not be construed to allow a person to change his or her party designation within ~~ninety (90)~~ twenty-nine (29) days preceding the primary election.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, affidavits for

1 changing party designation which are executed by voters at polling places immediately after  
2 voting in primary elections conducted in the city of Warwick in January, 2000, shall take effect  
3 immediately.

4 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, affidavits for  
5 changing party designation which are executed by voters at polling places immediately after  
6 voting in primary elections conducted in senate district 20 comprising parts of the city of  
7 Woonsocket and town of Cumberland in March, 2008, shall take effect immediately.

8 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 change the period of time a voter may have to change their party  
2   affiliation from the ninetieth day preceding any primary election for which the voter is eligible to  
3   the twenty-ninth day preceding any primary election for which the voter is eligible.  
4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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