

2016 -- S 2422

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LC004488
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Jabour, Conley, Cote, and Kettle

Date Introduced: February 11, 2016

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-14-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-14 entitled "Nomination
2 of Party and Independent Candidates" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-14-1. Declarations of candidacy.** -- During the last consecutive Monday, Tuesday,
4 and Wednesday in ~~June~~ April in the even years and during the thirty-ninth (39th) and fortieth
5 (40th) days preceding a primary election for a special election, or for an election regularly
6 scheduled for a time other than the biennial general statewide election, each voter desiring to be a
7 candidate at the upcoming primary or an independent candidate on final nomination papers shall,
8 on a form that shall be provided by the secretary of state, file a declaration of his or her candidacy
9 not later than four (4:00) p.m. of the last day for the filing with the secretary of state for
10 congressional and statewide general offices, or with the local board of the place of the candidate's
11 voting residence for general assembly, or state committee or senatorial and representative district
12 committee or with the appropriate local board for local officers. The declaration shall be signed
13 by the candidate as his or her name appears on the voting list. The signature shall be accepted as
14 valid if it can be reasonably identified to be the name and signature of the voter it purports to be.
15 A variation of the voter's signature by the insertion or omission of identifying titles or by the
16 substitution of initials for the first or middle names of both shall not in itself be grounds for
17 invalidation of the signature. The declaration shall also include the following information:

18 (1) The candidate's name as it appears on the voting list, subject to the same provisions
19 as relate to the voter's signature on the declaration;

- 1 (2) The address as it appears on the voting list, provided that an address which is
2 substantially the same as the address on the voting list shall be valid;
- 3 (3) The party declaration if seeking to run in a party primary;
- 4 (4) The office sought;
- 5 (5) The place and date of birth;
- 6 (6) The length of residence in the state and in the town or city where he or she resides;
- 7 (7) A certification that he or she is neither serving a sentence, including probation or
8 parole, for which he or she was imprisoned upon final conviction of a felony imposed on any date
9 nor serving any sentence, whether incarcerated or suspended, on probation or parole, upon final
10 conviction of a felony committed after November 5, 1986;
- 11 (8) A certification that he or she has not been lawfully adjudicated to be non compos
12 mentis, of unsound mind;
- 13 (9) In the case of candidates for party nomination, a certification that he or she has not
14 been a member of a political party other than the declared party within ninety (90) days of the
15 filing date; and
- 16 (10) If a person is a candidate for a state or local office, a certification that the person has
17 not within the preceding three (3) years served any sentence, incarcerated or suspended, on
18 probation or parole, for a crime committed after November 5, 1986, upon a plea of nolo
19 contendere or guilty or upon a conviction of a felony or for a misdemeanor for which a sentence
20 of imprisonment for six (6) months or more, whether suspended or to be served as imposed.

21 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 changes the month in which candidates for public office are required to declare
- 2 their candidacy from June to April.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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