

2017 -- S 0051

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE -- REFERENDUM ON LINE
ITEM VETO

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Cote, Sheehan, Morgan, and Paolino

Date Introduced: January 18, 2017

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 RESOLVED, That a majority of the 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 IX, Section 14, which is
5 hereby amended to read as follows:

6 ARTICLE IX – OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER

7 Section 14. Veto power of governor -- Veto overrides by general assembly -- Acts
8 effective without action by governor -- [Budget line item veto.](#) - Every bill, resolution, or vote
9 (except such as relate to adjournment, the organization or conduct of either or both houses of the
10 general assembly, and resolutions proposing amendment to the Constitution) which shall have
11 passed both houses of the general assembly shall be presented to the governor. If the governor
12 approve it the governor shall sign it, and thereupon it shall become operative, but if the governor
13 does not approve it the governor shall return it, accompanied by the governor's objections in
14 writing to the house in which it originated, which shall enter the governor's objections in full
15 upon its journal and proceed to reconsider it. If, after such reconsideration, three-fifths of the
16 members present and voting in that house shall vote to pass the measure, it shall be sent with the
17 objections, to the other house, by which it shall likewise by reconsidered, and if approved by
18 three-fifths of the members present and voting in that house, it shall become operative in the same
19 manner as if the governor had approved it, but in such cases the votes of both houses shall be

1 determined by ayes and nays and the names of the members voting for and against the measure
2 shall be entered upon the journal of each house, respectively. If the measure shall not be returned
3 by the governor within six days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to the
4 governor the same shall become operative unless the general assembly, by adjournment, prevents
5 its return, in which case it shall become operative unless transmitted by the governor nor to the
6 secretary of state, with the governor's disapproval in writing within ten days after such
7 adjournment.

8 The governor may reduce or veto any item of appropriation in a bill presented to the
9 governor. Portions of the bill not reduced or vetoed shall become law. An item vetoed or reduced
10 shall be returned to the house in which it originated and may be restored to its original amount
11 and become law in the same manner as a veto override. If a reduced item is not so restored, it
12 shall become law in the reduced amount.

13 RESOLVED, That this amendment shall take, in the Constitution of the state, the place of
14 Section 14 of Article IX of the Constitution;

15 It is further

16 RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendment shall be submitted to the electors
17 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election. The voting places in the
18 several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours required by law for voting therein for
19 general officers of the state; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the said proposition of amendment to
21 be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the said
22 meetings of the said electors; and the said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or notices
23 to be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town, ward,
24 or district meetings, and said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, or district meetings to
25 be held as aforesaid; it further

26 RESOLVED, That the town, ward, and district meetings to be held aforesaid shall be
27 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and
28 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,
29 ward, and district meetings for the election of general officers of the state.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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- 1 This joint resolution would submit to the electors a constitutional amendment granting
- 2 the governor the power to utilize a line item veto for appropriations.

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