

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- BALLOT ARRANGEMENT

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: March 02, 2017

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-19-9.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-19 entitled "Conduct
2 of Election and Voting Equipment, and Supplies" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-19-9.1. Ballot arrangement -- Independent candidates.**

4 In all state elections at which candidates for public office are to be elected, some of
5 whom are candidates of a political party and some of whom are independent candidates as
6 defined in § 17-1-2(4), all independent candidates for the same public office shall be listed on the
7 ballot, ~~in the vertical column below the title of the office they seek,~~ following the listing of the
8 political party candidates for the office and in an order chosen by lottery; provided, that any
9 independent candidate shall be entitled to have appear on the ballot, in small print to the right his
10 or her name, the name of any political principle, movement, or organization with which the
11 candidate wishes to be identified. The name of the political principle, movement, or organization
12 must be identified on the declaration of candidacy, must contain not more than three (3) words,
13 and must not include, in whole or in part, the name of any political party. If any declaration of
14 candidacy does not contain the name of any political principle, movement, or organization, the
15 word "independent" will appear in small print to the right the name of the candidate on the ballot.
16 Except as provided in this section, the powers and duties of the secretary of state with respect to
17 the preparation of the ballots shall not be affected.

1 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 remove the requirement that independent candidates for political office be
- 2 listed in a vertical column on the ballot.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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