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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - ELECTION OFFENSES

Introduced By: Senator Erin P. Lynch Prata

Date Introduced: April 25, 2017

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(Board of Elections)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-23-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-23 entitled "Election
2 Offenses" is hereby repealed.

3 ~~17-23-2. Signature of posters, fliers, and circulars.~~

4 ~~No person shall intentionally write, print, post, or distribute, or cause to be written,~~
5 ~~printed, posted, or distributed, a circular, flier, or poster designed or tending to injure or defeat~~
6 ~~any candidate for nomination or election to any public office, by criticizing the candidate's~~
7 ~~personal character or political action, or designed or tending to aid, injure, or defeat any question~~
8 ~~submitted to the voters, unless there appears upon the circular, flier, or poster in a conspicuous~~
9 ~~place the name of the author and either the names of the chairperson and secretary, or of two (2)~~
10 ~~officers, of the political or other organization issuing the poster, flier, or circular, or of some voter~~
11 ~~who is responsible for it, with the voter's name and residence, and the street and numbers, if any.~~

12 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO ELECTIONS - ELECTION OFFENSES

1 This act would eliminate the requirement of identifying the name or names of the author
2 of a circular, flier, or poster designed to injure or defeat any candidate for election to public
3 office.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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