

2018 -- H 7262

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LC003934
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- LOCAL CANVASSING AUTHORITIES

Introduced By: Representatives Cunha, Shekarchi, Maldonado, and Tobon

Date Introduced: January 24, 2018

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-8-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-8 entitled "Local
2 Canvassing Authorities" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-8-1. Appointment of bipartisan authority.**

4 (a) The legislative body of each city and town shall appoint a bipartisan canvassing
5 authority of three (3) qualified electors of the city or town, not more than two (2) of whom shall
6 belong to the same political party, and may appoint two (2) alternate members, not more than one
7 of whom shall belong to the same political party. At any meeting of the canvassing authority at
8 which a member is to be absent, the member may request that an alternate replace him or her for
9 that meeting; provided, that the alternate member must be of the same political party as the
10 member. The mayor, or the president of the town council if there is no mayor, shall nominate the
11 members of the canvassing authority from lists of party voters submitted by the respective
12 chairpersons of the city or town political committee, which lists shall contain the names of five
13 (5) times the number of persons to be appointed. If the legislative body refuses to approve the
14 nomination of any person to the canvassing authority, the mayor, or the president if there is no
15 mayor, shall submit to the legislative body another person named on one of the lists, and so on
16 until a person is appointed. If the chairperson of the city or town committee of a political party
17 entitled to an appointment fails or refuses to submit a list, the mayor, or the president if there is
18 no mayor, shall nominate any party voter of the political party entitled to the appointment.

19 **(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, in the town of North**

1 [Providence the president of the town council shall be vested with the authority to nominate](#)
2 [canvassing authority members pursuant to this section.](#)

3 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 -- LOCAL CANVASSING AUTHORITIES

1 This act would clarify who has the authority to nominate the members of a local
2 canvassing authority.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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