

2018 -- H 7586

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LC004707  
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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 -- ELECTION OFFENSES

Introduced By: Representatives Edwards, Shekarchi, Ackerman, and Solomon

Date Introduced: February 14, 2018

Referred To: House 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2 Offenses" is hereby repealed.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

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1           This act would remove the requirement that a circular or flier, that is designed to defeat a  
2 candidate for election to a public office or to defeat a question submitted to voters at an election,  
3 must contain the name of the author of the circular or flier.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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