

2019 -- H 6197

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LC002789
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES - CITY HOUSING AUTHORITIES

Introduced By: Representatives Casey, and Phillips

Date Introduced: June 07, 2019

Referred To: House Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 45-25-10 and 45-25-10.5 of the General Laws in Chapter 45-25
2 entitled "City Housing Authorities" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **45-25-10. Appointment and terms of commissioners -- Compensation, organization,**
4 **and personnel.**

5 (a) An authority consists of five (5) commissioners appointed by the mayor and he or she
6 shall designate the first chairperson; provided, that the housing authority of the city of Providence
7 consists of eleven (11) commissioners who are residents of the city of Providence, and the
8 housing authority of the city of Woonsocket shall consist of ~~seven (7)~~ nine (9) members, two (2)
9 of whom shall be occupants of public housing. At all times, three (3) of the commissioners must
10 be occupants of public housing, which commissioners shall be appointed from a list of nominees
11 chosen yearly by the occupants of public housing in open elections, each housing project
12 choosing three (3) nominees from among its occupants. Upon the determination of the appointing
13 authority that any commissioner has not been an occupant of public housing or not a resident of
14 the city of Providence for a period of six (6) consecutive months, the appointing authority shall
15 remove the commissioner and designate a person to fill the resultant vacancy; provided, that the
16 mayor choose the replacement from the list of nominees chosen yearly by the occupants of public
17 housing when appropriate. No commissioner may be a city or state official; provided, that
18 members of the housing authority of the city of Providence may serve on the city council.

19 (b) The commissioners who are first appointed shall be designated by the mayor to serve

1 for terms of one, two (2), three (3), four (4), and five (5) years, respectively, from the date of their
2 appointment. Four (4) additional commissioners for the housing authority for the city of
3 Providence shall be designated by the mayor to serve terms of one, two (2), three (3), and four (4)
4 years, respectively, from the date of their appointment. The two (2) additional commissioners for
5 the city of Woonsocket shall be designated by the mayor to serve terms of one and two (2) years
6 respectively. Thereafter, the term of office shall be five (5) years. [The two \(2\) commissioners for](#)
7 [the city of Woonsocket added in 2019 shall be designated by the mayor to serve five \(5\) year](#)
8 [terms.](#) Two (2) additional commissioners for the housing authority of the city of Providence shall
9 be members of the city council elected by the city council from its councilmanic members to
10 serve for a term ending the first Monday in January, 1975, and, thereafter, elected for a term of
11 four (4) years. A commissioner shall hold office until his or her successor has been appointed, or
12 elected, and has qualified. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term. Three (3)
13 commissioners constitute a quorum except that six (6) commissioners of the housing authority of
14 the city of Providence constitute a quorum and four (4) commissioners of the housing authority of
15 the city of Woonsocket shall constitute a quorum.

16 (c) The mayor shall file with the city clerk a certificate of the appointment or
17 reappointment of any commissioner, and the certificate is conclusive evidence of the due and
18 proper appointment of the commissioner. A commissioner of the city of Providence shall only
19 receive twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per meeting, but not in excess of twelve hundred dollars
20 (\$1,200) per year as compensation for his or her services, and the commissioner is entitled to the
21 necessary expenses, including traveling expenses, incurred in the discharge of his or her duties,
22 the compensation and expenses to be paid by the municipality of Providence; provided, that a
23 commissioner of the city of Pawtucket receives one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200) per
24 year and is entitled to the necessary expenses, including traveling expenses, incurred in the
25 discharge of his or her duties, to be paid by the city of Pawtucket; provided, that a commissioner
26 of the city of Central Falls receives twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per meeting, but not in excess of
27 five hundred dollars (\$500) per year, as compensation for his or her services, and the
28 commissioner is entitled to the necessary expenses, including traveling expenses, incurred in the
29 discharge of his or her duties, to be paid by the city of Central Falls.

30 (d) Effective January 1, 1988, and thereafter, a commissioner of the city of Warwick
31 receives one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) per year, and the chairperson of the Warwick
32 housing authority receives one thousand seven hundred dollars (\$1,700) per year for their services
33 to be paid by the city of Warwick.

34 (e) When the office of the first chairperson of the authority becomes vacant, the authority

1 shall select a chairperson from among its members. An authority shall select from its members a
2 vice chairperson, and it may employ a secretary (who shall be executive director), technical
3 experts, and other officers, agents, and employees, permanent and temporary, that it may require,
4 and shall determine their qualifications, duties, and compensation. An authority may call upon the
5 city solicitor or chief law officer of the city for legal services, as it may require, or it may employ
6 its own counsel and legal staff. An authority may delegate to one or more of its agents or
7 employees the powers or duties that it deems proper.

8 **45-25-10.5. City of Woonsocket housing authority.**

9 [\(a\)](#) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 45-25-10, commencing January 1, 2002 the
10 housing authority of the city of Woonsocket is expanded in size from five (5) members to seven
11 (7) members. The two (2) additional members shall be residents of public housing facilities
12 and/or recipients of the authority's Section 8 tenant based program in the city of Woonsocket.
13 Each shall be appointed for a four (4) year term by the mayor, who shall make the appointments
14 from a list of interested residents of the public housing facilities and/or recipients of the
15 authority's Section 8 tenant based program in the city of Woonsocket as submitted by the
16 executive director. The method of selection of the residents to the list shall be determined by the
17 mayor. If any resident commissioner no longer lives in public housing and/or is no longer a
18 recipient of the authority's Section 8 tenant based program in the city of Woonsocket, his or her
19 office shall be deemed vacated.

20 [\(b\) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 45-25-10, commencing January 1, 2019, the](#)
21 [housing authority of the city of Woonsocket is expanded in size from seven \(7\) members to nine](#)
22 [\(9\) members who shall be appointed by the mayor.](#)

23 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 add two (2) additional members to the Woonsocket housing authority to
- 2 be appointed by the mayor.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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