

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
(SESSIONS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

Introduced By: Senators Nesselbush, Bell, Paolino, and Morgan

Date Introduced: February 13, 2020

Referred To: Senate Rules, Government Ethics and Oversight

1 RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general
2 assembly voting therefor, the following amendment to the Constitution of the state be proposed to
3 the qualified electors of the state in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of the
4 Constitution for their approval and that this amendment take the place of Article VI, Section 3,
5 which Article and Section is hereby amended, effective on January 1, 2021, to read as follows:

6 ARTICLE VI

7 OF THE LEGISLATIVE POWER

8 **Section 3. Sessions of general assembly – Compensation of general assembly**
9 **members and officers.** – There shall be a session of the general assembly at Providence
10 commencing on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of January in each year and terminating
11 on or before the Friday next prior to Memorial Day in that year.

12 Commencing in January 1995, senators and representatives shall be compensated at an
13 annual rate of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). Commencing in 1996, the rate of compensation
14 shall be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the cost of living, as determined by the United
15 States government, during a twelve (12) month period ending in the immediately preceding year.
16 Commencing in 2003, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house shall be
17 compensated at an annual rate double that of other senators and representatives.

18 Senators and representatives shall receive the same health insurance benefits as full-time
19 state employees.

1 Senators and representatives shall be reimbursed for traveling expenses in going to and
2 from the general assembly at the same mileage paid to state workers as of the 31st day of
3 December in the year preceding each session.

4 No senator or representative shall be eligible for any pension on account of service in the
5 general assembly after 1994; provided, however, that those senators and representatives first
6 elected before 1994 who elect to receive compensation for legislative service in 1995 and
7 thereafter, at the rate of five dollars (\$5.00) for every day of actual attendance and eight cents
8 (.08) per mile for traveling expenses in going to and returning from the general assembly, for a
9 maximum of sixty (60) days in any calendar year, shall be eligible for a pension on account of
10 service in the general assembly after 1994. The amount of such pension shall be based upon the
11 pension program in effect for legislators on January 1, 1994.

12 The general assembly shall regulate the compensation of the governor and of all other
13 officers, subject to limitations contained in the Constitution.

14 RESOLVED, That this amendment take, in the Constitution of the state, the place of
15 Article VI, Section 3, of the Constitution; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendment shall be submitted to the electors
17 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election to be held in November,
18 2018. The voting places in the several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours
19 required by law for voting therein for members of the state general assembly; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the said proposition of amendment to
21 be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the said
22 meetings of said electors; and the said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or notices to
23 be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town, ward or
24 district meetings, and said proposition shall be read by the town, ward or district meetings to be
25 held as aforesaid; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the town, ward and district meetings to be held aforesaid shall be
27 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward and
28 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,
29 ward and district meetings for the next general election of members to the state general assembly
30 and such other general officers of the state as may be up for election.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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(SESSIONS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

- 1 This joint resolution would propose a constitutional amendment which, if approved by
- 2 the voters, would change the opening date of the general assembly to the first Tuesday after the
- 3 first Monday in January, and would provide for adjournment no later than the Friday preceding
- 4 Memorial Day.

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