

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE -- PROCEDURE TO FILL VACANCY IN OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, ATTORNEY GENERAL OR GENERAL TREASURER

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, Raptakis, Gallo, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: January 15, 2021

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

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 it take the place of Article IV Section 4 which is hereby  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 ARTICLE IV

7 OF ELECTIONS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

8 SECTION 4. ~~Temporary appointment~~ Procedure to fill vacancies in office of secretary  
9 of state, attorney general, or general treasurer

10 In case of a vacancy in the office of the secretary of state, attorney-general, or general  
11 treasurer ~~from~~ for any cause, the general assembly in grand committee shall elect some person to  
12 fill the same if the vacancy occurs with less than one year remaining in the unexpired term. If the  
13 vacancy occurs with more than one year remaining in the unexpired term then it shall be filled  
14 through a special election.  ~~; provided, that if such vacancy occurs when the general assembly is~~  
15 ~~not in session the governor shall appoint some person to fill such vacancy until a successor~~  
16 ~~elected by the general assembly is qualified to act.~~

17 RESOLVED, That this amendment shall take, in the Constitution of the state, the place of  
18 Article IV Section 4 of the Constitution;

1           It is further

2           RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendment shall be submitted to the electors  
3 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election. The voting places in the  
4 several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours required by law for voting therein for  
5 general officers of the state; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the said proposition of amendment to  
7 be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the said  
8 meetings of the said electors; and the said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or notices  
9 to be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town, ward,  
10 or district meetings and said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, or district meetings to  
11 be held as aforesaid; and be it further

12           RESOLVED, That the town, ward, and district meetings to be held aforesaid shall be  
13 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and  
14 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,  
15 ward, and district meetings for the election of general officers of the state.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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

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- 1           This joint resolution would present to the electors a Rhode Island constitutional
- 2 amendment which would create a procedure to fill vacancies in the offices of secretary of state,
- 3 attorney general or general treasurer.

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