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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- GENERAL STATE OFFICES

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

Date Introduced: January 19, 2021

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-2-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-2 entitled "General State
2 Officers" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-2-5. Vacancies in other general offices.**

4 In case of a vacancy in the office of secretary of state, attorney general, or general treasurer,
5 from any cause, the general assembly in grand committee shall elect some person to fill the office
6 [if the vacancy occurs with less than one year remaining in the term. If the vacancy occurs with](#)
7 [more than one year remaining in the term it shall be filled through a special election](#); provided, that
8 if the vacancy occurs when the general assembly is not in session, the governor shall appoint some
9 person to fill the vacancy until a successor elected by the general assembly is qualified to act.

10 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 -- GENERAL STATE OFFICES

1 This act would require a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of secretary of state,
2 attorney general or general treasurer if more than one year is left in the term of office. If less than
3 one year in the term is remaining it shall be filled by the general assembly in grand committee.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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