

2021 -- S 0622

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LC001858
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS

Introduced By: Senator Cynthia Armour Coyne

Date Introduced: March 11, 2021

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(Board of Elections)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-20-29 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-20 entitled "Mail
2 Ballots" is hereby repealed.

3 ~~**17-20-29. Mail applicant not permitted to vote at polls.**~~

4 ~~(a) No person, or one claiming to be that person, whose name has been marked upon any~~
5 ~~voting list, provided for official use at any election, with the mark as provided by § 17-20-10, shall~~
6 ~~be permitted to vote in person at the election; provided, that the person may re-establish his or her~~
7 ~~right to vote in person by presenting himself or herself at that person's local board on or before~~
8 ~~election day and surrendering his or her mail ballot. Upon that surrender the person's name shall be~~
9 ~~restored to the voting list. Any person whose name has been marked on the voting list may also be~~
10 ~~permitted to vote in person if that person executes and delivers to the local board an affidavit stating~~
11 ~~that the person did not receive the mail ballot, or that the mail ballot was lost or destroyed.~~

12 ~~(b) Each local board shall, immediately after the close of the polls, certify and deliver to~~
13 ~~the state board the names and addresses of all persons restored to the voting list, together with the~~
14 ~~affidavits and surrendered ballots received pursuant to this section.~~

15 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 -- MAIL BALLOTS

1 This act would repeal a mail ballot section entitled "Mail applicant not permitted to vote at
2 polls." The purpose of this repeal is to follow the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and to
3 account for permitting voters to cast provisional ballots at the polling place.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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