

2022 -- S 2526

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LC004824
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION COMPOSITION OF THE SENATE

Introduced By: Senators de la Cruz, and Rogers

Date Introduced: March 01, 2022

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 RESOLVED, That majority of all members elected to each house of the general assembly
2 voting therefor, the following amendment to the Constitution of the state be proposed to the
3 qualified electors of the state in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of the Constitution
4 for their approval and that it take place of Article VIII, Section 1, which is hereby amended,
5 effective January 1, 2023, to read as follows:

6 Section 1. Composition.

7 The senate shall consist of the lieutenant governor and fifty members from the senatorial
8 districts in the state, provided, however, that commencing in 2003 the senate shall consist of
9 thirty-eight members from the senatorial districts in the state. ~~The senate shall be constituted on~~
10 ~~the basis of population and as compact in territory as possible. The general assembly shall, after~~
11 ~~any new census taken by authority of the United States, reapportion the representation to conform~~
12 ~~to the Constitution of the state and the Constitution of the United State. Commencing in 2023, the~~
13 senate shall consist of thirty-nine members, one from each city and town.

14 RESOLVED, That this amendment shall take in the Constitution of the state the place of
15 Section 1, Article VIII, of the Constitution, effective January 1, 2023; 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. The voting places in the
18 several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours required by law for voting therein for
19 general officers of the state; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State shall cause the said proposition of amendment
2 to be published as a part of the resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the
3 said meetings of the said electors; and the said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or
4 notices to be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town,
5 ward, or district meetings, and said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, or district
6 meetings to be held as aforesaid; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the town, ward, and district meetings to be held as aforesaid shall be
8 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and
9 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,
10 ward, and district meetings for the elections 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 submit to the electors for approval a proposed constitutional
2 amendment, which would increase the number of senators from thirty-eight (38) to thirty-nine
3 (39), one for each city and town, notwithstanding their varying populations.

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