

2023 -- H 5384

LC000825

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

Introduced By: Representatives Baginski, Shanley, Potter, and Fenton-Fung

Date Introduced: February 03, 2023

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-9.1-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-9.1 entitled "Registration  
2 of Voters" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-9-3. Periods when boards receive registrations.**

4 (a) The local boards shall open their respective offices for the purposes of receiving  
5 registration of voters throughout the year during the regular business hours. Registration for any  
6 election shall close on the thirtieth (30th) day preceding an election; provided, that local boards  
7 shall not receive the registration on Sundays or legal holidays, and may receive the registrations  
8 during additional hours each day from the fortieth (40th) to the thirtieth (30th) day before any  
9 election. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed as restricting the right of statewide or  
10 local registration agents or members of the general assembly to accept registrations of voters on  
11 any day. The acceptance of registrations at any other time shall not affect the validity of any  
12 election.

13 (b) Notwithstanding any other sections of the general laws to the contrary, all local boards  
14 of canvassers shall remain open from eight-thirty (8:30) a.m. until four o'clock (4:00) p.m. on the  
15 last day prescribed by law for the taking of voter registrations to permit participation of the voters  
16 in the next succeeding election. In the event that the last day prescribed by law for the taking of  
17 voter registrations is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the local board may;

18 (1) Designate one publicly accessible location in the city or town at which voter  
19 registrations will be taken; and

1           (2) Designate the hours during which voter registration will be taken at that location, which  
2 hours shall include the hours from one o'clock (1:00) p.m. until four o'clock (4:00) p.m.

3           (c) If a local board does designate a location other than its regular place of business or does  
4 designate hours other than eight-thirty o'clock (8:30) a.m. until four o'clock (4:00) p.m., it shall:

5           (1) Publicly announce those designation(s) at least ten (10) days prior to the last day  
6 provided by law for the taking of voter registrations; and

7           (2) Advertise those designation(s) in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or town  
8 at least twice prior to the last day prescribed by law for the taking of voter registrations. [The local](#)  
9 [board may substitute advertising in a newspaper by posting notice of those designation\(s\) on the](#)  
10 [municipality's website for at least ten \(10\) consecutive days leading up to the last day prescribed](#)  
11 [by law for the taking of voter registrations.](#)

12           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would permit the substitution of advertising the voter registration deadline in a  
2 newspaper by posting notice of designation(s) on the municipality's website, continuously, for at  
3 least ten (10) consecutive days leading up to the last day prescribed by law for the taking of voter  
4 registrations.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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