

2025 -- H 6298

LC002803

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF THE WARWICK CITY CHARTER
TO ALLOW FOR ELECTRONIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS, RAISING
THE SMALL PROCUREMENT DOLLAR THRESHOLD BY ORDINANCE, AND
ESTABLISHING MINORITY REPRESENTATION APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND
COMMISSIONS VIA ORDINANCE

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Shekarchi, Shanley, Read, and Hopkins

Date Introduced: May 02, 2025

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Pursuant to the request of the Warwick City Council by resolution adopted
2 on April 22, 2025, Article 2, Section 10, of the Warwick City Charter, is hereby amended to read
3 as follows:

4 Article 2, Section 10 - CITY COUNCIL – Notice of special meetings.

5 Notice of a special meeting shall be served in person upon electronically, or left at the
6 usual place of residence of each member of the council and the mayor at least 48 hours previous to
7 the time of such meeting. The council may meet upon shorter notice at times of emergency.

8 SECTION 2. Pursuant to the request of the Warwick City Council by resolution adopted
9 on April 22, 2025, Article 6, Section 12, of the Warwick City Charter, is hereby amended to read
10 as follows:

11 Article 6, Section 12 -- DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE -- ~~Purchases in excess of \$1,000.~~
12 Small Purchases.

13 All purchases and contracts in excess of one thousand (\$1,000) dollars and not exceeding
14 twenty-five hundred (\$2,500) dollars, or such other amounts as may be prescribed by ordinance
15 and allowed by the state, shall be awarded by the purchasing agent to the lowest responsible bidder
16 after such public notice and competition as may be prescribed by council ordinance. The purchasing
17 agent shall have the right to reject any or all bids and advertise for new bids. A series of orders for

1 the same project shall be construed to be one order or contract and the finance department shall
2 disapprove the same as circumventing the requirements of this Charter for competitive bidding.
3 The acceptance of any bid for a contract in excess of twenty-five hundred (\$2,500) dollars or such
4 other amounts as may be prescribed by ordinance and allowed by the state, shall be subject to the
5 approval of the city council and shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. Alterations in
6 any contract may be made when authorized by the council upon the recommendation of the mayor.

7 SECTION 3. Pursuant to the request of the Warwick City Council by resolution adopted
8 on April 22, 2025, Article 10, Section 24, of the Warwick City Charter, is hereby amended to read
9 as follows:

10 Article 10, Section 24 -- GENERAL PROVISIONS: SUCCESSION IN GOVERNMENT
11 -- Minority Representation.

12 The city council shall establish via ordinance standards for minority representation
13 appointments to city boards and commissions.

14 ~~There shall be minority party representation on all boards and commissions. The minority~~
15 ~~party shall mean the party other than that of the mayor. The mayor shall make such minority party~~
16 ~~appointment from a list of five names submitted by the chairman of the city committee of the~~
17 ~~minority party at least five days before such appointment is to be made; provided, however, if the~~
18 ~~chairman of such city committee shall fail or refuse to submit a list as aforesaid, the mayor shall~~
19 ~~appoint any person known by him to be a member of the political party entitled to said appointment.~~
20 ~~Unless otherwise established, all terms expire on the fifteenth day of the last month of the term,~~
21 ~~unless that day falls on a non-business day, then the term shall expire on the first business day after~~
22 ~~the fifteenth.~~

23 SECTION 4. Pursuant to Article 10, Section 29 of the Warwick City Charter, these
24 amendments shall be submitted to the voters of the city at the next general election to be held in
25 November, 2026, or a special election as may be scheduled sooner, for approval or rejection thereof,
26 in the following form:

27 "1. Shall the methods of notifying city council members of special meetings be expanded
28 from service in person or at their residence to include electronic notification?

29 APPROVE DISAPPROVE

30 2. Shall the monetary thresholds for competitive bids of small purchases that may be
31 awarded by the purchasing agent and by the city council be adjustable by ordinance as allowed by
32 the state?

33 APPROVE DISAPPROVE

34 3. Shall the city council establish via ordinance standards for minority representation

1 appointments to city boards and commissions?

2 APPROVE DISAPPROVE"

3 SECTION 5. Sections 4 and 5 of this act shall take effect upon passage. Section 1 of this
4 act shall take effect upon approval of the voters of the city of Warwick at a general or special
5 election of amendment question 1 contained in Section 4. Section 2 of this act shall take effect upon
6 approval of the voters of the city of Warwick at a general or special election of amendment question
7 2 contained in Section 4. Section 3 of this act shall take effect upon approval of the voters of the
8 city of Warwick at a general or special election of amendment question 3 contained in Section 4.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF THE WARWICK CITY CHARTER
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1 This act would approve charter amendments to the Warwick city charter subject to voter
2 approval at the general election to be held in November, 2026, or at a special election as may be
3 scheduled sooner. If approved, these amendments would allow the methods of notifying city
4 council members of special meetings to be expanded to include electronic notification, would allow
5 the monetary thresholds for competitive bids of small purchases to be adjustable by ordinance as
6 allowed by the state, and would further provide that the city council could establish via ordinance
7 standards for minority representation appointments to city boards and commissions.

8 Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act would take effect if a majority of those electors qualified to
9 vote upon the corresponding question in Section 4 shall vote in favor thereof. The remaining
10 sections of this act would take effect upon passage.

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