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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- CONDUCT OF ELECTION AND VOTING EQUIPMENT,  
AND SUPPLIES

Introduced By: Senators LaMountain, Dimitri, Burke, Felag, McKenney, and Bissaillon

Date Introduced: March 13, 2026

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(Board of Elections)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 17-19-37 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-19 entitled "Conduct of  
2 Election and Voting Equipment, and Supplies" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           ~~17-19-37. Tabulation of state returns — Certificate of election. Tabulation of state~~  
4 ~~and federal returns – Certificate of election.~~

5           The state board shall proceed to tabulate the state and federal election returns and declare  
6 the results as provided in chapter 22 of this title, and any candidate at the election challenging the  
7 result as applied to him or her may petition the board within ~~seven (7)~~ nine (9) days after the  
8 declaration to conduct a recount of the votes cast in the candidate's election according to the  
9 provisions set forth in § 17-19-37.1. After the completion of the recount, and as soon as it can do  
10 so consistent with its other duties, the state board shall issue a certificate of election to the state and  
11 federal candidate it determines to have been elected.

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 increase from seven (7) days to nine (9) days the period of time in which a  
2 request for a recount of the votes cast can be made to the board of elections. No certificates of  
3 election may be issued, until the recount if any is completed.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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