

2017 -- H 5351

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES - POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS RESIDENCY

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, Marshall, and Canario

Date Introduced: February 02, 2017

Referred To: House Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 45-2-15.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 45-2 entitled "General
2 Powers" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **45-2-15.1. Police officers and firefighters -- Residency within municipality not**
4 **required.**

5 Notwithstanding any prior ratification and validation by the general assembly of any
6 home rule charter provision requiring that police officers and fire fighters reside within the
7 employing city, ~~or~~ town, [or state of Rhode Island](#), no home rule charter provision shall require
8 that a police officer or fire fighter reside within the city, ~~or~~ town, [or state of Rhode Island](#) as a
9 condition of appointment or continued employment. Any prior ratification and validation by the
10 general assembly of a home rule charter provision requiring residency within a city, ~~or~~ town, [or](#)
11 [state of Rhode Island](#) as a condition for employment of a police officer or fire fighter is hereby
12 expressly repealed by the general assembly; further, no city or town council shall make or ordain
13 any ordinance requiring a police officer or fire fighter to reside within the employing city, ~~or~~
14 town, [or state of Rhode Island](#) as a condition of appointment or continued employment. Any
15 existing ordinance requiring a police officer or fire fighter to reside within the employing city, ~~or~~
16 town, [or state of Rhode Island](#) as a condition of appointment or continued employment is hereby
17 considered contrary to the laws of this state and is thus void as being in violation of state law.

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1 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 prohibit municipal charters and ordinances from requiring that their police
2 officers and firefighters reside within the state of Rhode Island.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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