

2020 -- H 7913

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LC004979
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO EVALUATE THE
FEASIBILITY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NECESSARY
REGULATIONS/STATUTES/LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT INSTANT-RUNOFF VOTING
(IRV) IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representative Arthur Handy

Date Introduced: February 26, 2020

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, Instant-runoff voting (IRV), also known as ranked-choice voting (RCV), is
2 a ranked preferential voting method used in single-seat elections with more than two candidates;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Instead of indicating support for only one candidate, voters in IRV elections
5 can rank the candidates in their order of preference - first, second, third and so on; and

6 WHEREAS, In an IRV or RCV type of voting process, if a voters preferred candidate
7 does not get enough votes to stay in the election, the persons vote is given to their second choice
8 of candidate; and

9 WHEREAS, IRV and RCV are used for state primary, Congressional, and Presidential
10 elections, beginning in 2020, in Maine, and for local elections in more than 20 cities across the
11 country in the states of California, Massachusetts, Colorado, Michigan, New Mexico, Maine,
12 Utah, Minnesota, and Maryland; and

13 WHEREAS, Majority winners in elections have become less common during the last
14 decade, as the number of plurality winners have increased in both federal and state elections; and

15 WHEREAS, IRV and RCV makes democracy more fair and functional by encouraging
16 increased participation in elections, incentivizing candidates to appeal to a broader base of
17 constituencies, and ensuring that a candidate wins with a majority vote as opposed to a plurality;
18 now, therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
2 Providence Plantations hereby requests the Secretary of State to evaluate the feasibility and
3 provide recommendations for necessary regulations/statutes/legislation to implement instant-
4 runoff voting, and report the findings and recommendations to the House on or before January 5,
5 2021; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Nellie M. Gorbea, Rhode Island
8 Secretary of State.

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