

2019 -- S 0951

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

**TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators Conley, Lombardo, Ciccone, Lombardi, and Algiere

Date Introduced: June 05, 2019

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

1 RESOLVED, That a majority of the members elected to each house of the general
2 assembly voting therefor, the following amendment to the Constitution of the state be proposed to
3 the qualified electors of the state in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of the
4 Constitution, for their approval, and that Article IX, Section 14 is hereby amended to read as
5 follows:

6 **ARTICLE IX – OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER**

7 Section 14. Veto power of governor -- Veto overrides by general assembly -- Acts
8 effective without action by governor -- Every bill, resolution, or vote (except such as relate to
9 adjournment, the organization or conduct of either or both houses of the general assembly, and
10 resolutions proposing amendment to the Constitution) which shall have passed both houses of the
11 general assembly shall be presented to the governor. If the governor approve it the governor shall
12 sign it, and thereupon it shall become operative, but if the governor does not approve it the
13 governor shall return it, accompanied by the governor's objections in writing to the house in
14 which it originated, which shall enter the governor's objections in full upon its journal and
15 proceed to reconsider it. If, after such reconsideration, three-fifths of the members present and
16 voting in that house shall vote to pass the measure, it shall be sent with the objections, to the other
17 house, by which it shall likewise by reconsidered, and if approved by three-fifths of the members
18 present and voting in that house, it shall become operative in the same manner as if the governor
19 had approved it, but in such cases the votes of both houses shall be determined by ayes and nays

1 and the names of the members voting for and against the measure shall be entered upon the
2 journal of each house, respectively. If the measure shall not be returned by the governor within
3 six days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to the governor the same shall
4 become operative unless the general assembly, by adjournment, prevents its return, in which case
5 it shall become operative unless transmitted by the governor nor to the secretary of state, with the
6 governor's disapproval in writing within ten days after such adjournment.

7 If any bill presented to the governor shall address appropriation of money, the governor
8 may:

9 (a) Approve the bill in like manner as the passage of other bills set forth in this section;

10 (b) Reduce any sum or sums of money appropriated in the bill while approving other
11 portions of the bill, in which case the portions of the bill so approved by the governor shall also
12 become law unless the general assembly repasses the original sum or sums according to the rules
13 and limitations prescribed in this section for the passage of other bills over the governor's veto,
14 provided that each sum of money so reduced by the governor shall be separately and individually
15 reconsidered by the general assembly; or

16 (c) Disapprove one or more items or parts of items of the bill (other than the sum or sums
17 of money described in subsection (b) of this section), in which case any portions of the bill so
18 approved by the governor shall not become law unless the general assembly repasses the original
19 version of the item or part of an item according to the rules and limitations prescribed in this
20 section for the passage of other bills over the governor's veto, provided:

21 (1) That each item or part of an item so disapproved by the governor shall be separately
22 and individually reconsidered by the general assembly;

23 (2) Further, that in approving the bill in part, the governor may not create:

24 (i) A new word by rejecting individual letters in the words; or

25 (ii) A new sentence by combining parts or two (2) or more sentences; and

26 (3) Further, that to the extent an item or part of an item disapproved by the governor
27 constitutes a condition, including, but not limited to, directing or restricting the use, of an
28 appropriated fund, the sum corresponding to the specific item of appropriated fund to which the
29 disapproved condition applies shall not be reduced but remain as part of the general appropriated
30 funds.

31 RESOLVED, That this portion of the amendment shall take, in the Constitution of the
32 state, the place of Section 14 of Article IX of the Constitution;

33 It is further

34 RESOLVED, That Article VI of the Constitution of the state be amended by adding

1 thereto the following section, to wit:

2 Section 23. Budget consideration and reconciliation process.

3 (a) The budget plan and bill or bills for proposed appropriations, when sent by the
4 governor to the general assembly, shall be referred as soon as practicable to the appropriate
5 committees of the house of representatives and the senate, and the house and senate committees
6 shall forthwith proceed to the consideration of the bill. The committees shall hear the budget
7 officer upon the bill as a whole or upon any item thereof or any proposed amendment thereto as
8 each may elect, and the committees may summon the budget officer to appear before it and to
9 furnish such information relative to the bill or any item therein, or any proposed amendment
10 thereto, as it may require, and the committees may in their discretion hear the proper person
11 representing any department or agency desiring to be heard with respect to any item or
12 amendment in the bill relating to the department or agency; provided, that nothing contained in
13 this section shall be construed to limit the right of the committees to hold public hearings upon
14 the bill as a whole or upon any item therein, or to summon any person for examination regarding
15 any item contained therein, or for the purpose of obtaining information necessary for a full and
16 proper consideration of the bill. The house and senate committees, after the consideration of the
17 bill, shall report the bill with its recommendation endorsed thereon to the respective house and
18 senate chambers for a full vote.

19 (b) If, upon consideration by the house of representatives and the senate, there are
20 differences in the final budget that cannot be agreed upon, then a budget conference committee
21 shall be formed to review only the areas of the budget which differ. The joint conference
22 committee shall consist of three (3) members of the house of representatives to be appointed by
23 the house finance committee and three (3) members of the senate to be appointed by the senate
24 finance committee. The committee shall vote to approve a conference report which shall require
25 four (4) votes in the affirmative inclusive of two (2) votes from each chamber to be issued
26 without the possibility of amendments to the full body of the house of representatives and the full
27 body of the senate for a final vote. Once approved by both chambers the budget shall be amended
28 by the conference report and be considered passed in concurrence and shall then be transmitted to
29 the governor for signature or veto.

30 It is further

31 RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendment shall be submitted to the electors
32 for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election. The voting places in the
33 several cities and towns shall be kept open during the hours required by law for voting therein for
34 general officers of the state; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the said proposition of amendment to
2 be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the said
3 meetings of the said electors; and the said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or notices
4 to be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town, ward,
5 or district meetings, and said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, or district meetings to
6 be held as aforesaid; it further

7 RESOLVED, That the town, ward, and district meetings to be held aforesaid shall be
8 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and
9 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,
10 ward, and district meetings for the election of general officers of the state.

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