

2008 -- H 7767

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LC02132  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2008

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- ELECTION MATERIAL AUTHORSHIP

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, and Serpa

Date Introduced: February 26, 2008

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 17-23-1 and 17-23-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-23  
2 entitled "Election Offenses" are hereby repealed.

3           ~~**17-23-1. Signature and labeling of advertising in periodicals.** -- No person shall~~  
4 ~~publish or cause to be published in any newspaper or other periodical, either in its advertising or~~  
5 ~~reading columns, any paid matter designed or tending to aid, injure, or defeat any candidate for~~  
6 ~~public office or any question submitted to the voters, unless the name of the chairperson or~~  
7 ~~secretary or the names of two (2) officers of the political or other organization inserting the paid~~  
8 ~~matter, or the name of some voter who is responsible for it, with that person's residence and the~~  
9 ~~street and number, if any, appear in the paid matter in the nature of a signature. The matter~~  
10 ~~inserted in reading columns shall be preceded by or followed by the word "advertisement" in a~~  
11 ~~separate line, in type not smaller than that of the body type of the newspaper or other periodical.~~

12           ~~**17-23-2. Signature of posters, fliers, and circulars.** -- No person shall intentionally~~  
13 ~~write, print, post, or distribute, or cause to be written, printed, posted, or distributed, a circular,~~  
14 ~~flier, or poster designed or tending to injure or defeat any candidate for nomination or election to~~  
15 ~~any public office, by criticizing the candidate's personal character or political action, or designed~~  
16 ~~or tending to aid, injure, or defeat any question submitted to the voters, unless there appears upon~~  
17 ~~the circular, flier, or poster in a conspicuous place the name of the author and either the names of~~  
18 ~~the chairperson and secretary, or of two (2) officers, of the political or other organization issuing~~  
19 ~~the poster, flier, or circular, or of some voter who is responsible for it, with the voter's name and~~

1 ~~residence, and the street and numbers, if any.~~

2 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- ELECTION MATERIAL AUTHORSHIP

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1           This act would repeal two elections sections relating to authorship of political  
2 publications.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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