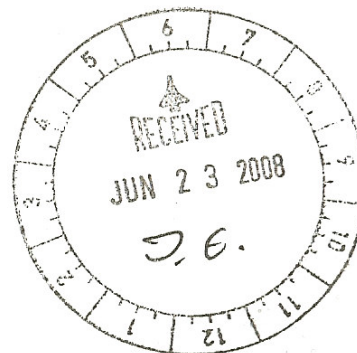




State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080



Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

June 23, 2008

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 14, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Section 43-1-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I transmit, with my disapproval, 2008 H 7106, "An Act Relating to Elections – Registration of Voters."

In 2006 and 2007 the General Assembly passed identical legislation, and both times I disapproved explaining my reasons for doing so. Let me take the time to do so again.

Rhode Island law already enables people younger than 18 to register to vote, as long as they will be eligible by date of the next election. To my knowledge, current law has served this State well. It creates no impediment, nor dissuades anyone eligible to participate in the political process from doing so. It appears that the legislature has a solution and now must search for a problem.

Unfortunately, as is often the case when the government decides to fix what isn't broken, there are unintended consequences. If this legislation were to become law the State would be forced to add thousand of names – all people ineligible to vote – to the voter rolls. This strikes me as both counter-intuitive and counter-productive, especially considering the fact that the State spent time and money to clean up voting lists and create a state-wide central voter registry.

Adding people to a voter list who are not eligible to vote defeats the purpose of having the list in the first place.

For these reasons, I disapprove of this legislation and respectfully urge your support of this veto.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Carcieri

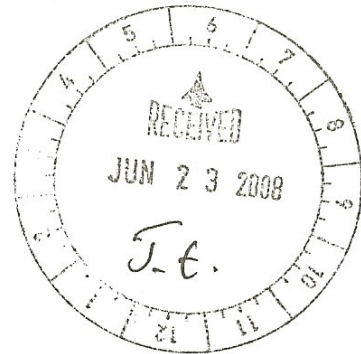


State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

June 23, 2008



TO THE HONORABLE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 14, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Section 43-1-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I transmit, with my disapproval, 2008 S 2081, "An Act Relating to Elections – Registration of Voters."

In 2006 and 2007 the General Assembly passed identical legislation, and both times I disapproved explaining my rationale in veto messages. Let me take the time to do so again.

Rhode Island law already enables people younger than 18 to register to vote, as long as they will be eligible by date of the next election. To my knowledge, current law has served this State well. It creates no impediment, nor dissuades anyone eligible to participate in the political process from doing so. It appears that the legislature has a solution and must now search for a problem.

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