

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.6, following is a concise explanatory statement:

AGENCY: Board of Elections

DIVISION: Board of Elections

RULE IDENTIFIER: *410-RICR-20-00-25*

RULE TITLE: Rules and Regulations Establishing Vote-by-Mail Ballot Drop Boxes

REASON FOR RULEMAKING: The regulation is promulgated to establish an alternative method for the submission of vote-by-mail ballots in each city and town in the State of Rhode Island.

ANY FINDING REQUIRED BY LAW AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RULE:

TESTIMONY AND COMMENTS: One of the comments was a request to designate the Department of State as an agent of the Board of Elections for the purpose of retrieving and delivering mail ballots from the drop boxes located at the Department of State, Division of Elections.

Proposed change to the label of the drop boxes to be “Official Ballot Drop Box for Mail Ballots.”

Proposed change to add “for good cause shown” for establishing need to move drop boxes from close proximity to city and town halls to an alternative location.

Proposed change to refer to persons who need access for “disability” rather than “handicapped.”

CHANGE TO TEXT OF THE RULE: The text was modified to add the Department of State as an agent of the Board of Elections for the purpose of retrieving and delivering mail ballots to the Board.

The text was modified to change the label of the drop boxes to “State of Rhode Island Official Ballot Drop Box for Mail Ballots.”

The text was modified to add “for cause shown” for establishing need to move drop boxes from close proximity to city and town halls.

The text was modified to refer to persons who need access for “disability” rather than “handicapped.”

REGULATORY ANALYSIS: Provide the text of the regulatory analysis prepared under § 42-35-2.9.