

House File 516

H-1116

1 Amend House File 516 as follows:

2 1. By striking everything after the enacting clause
3 and inserting:

4 <Section 1. FINDINGS. The general assembly finds
5 all of the following:

6 1. Voter identification laws deprive many voters of
7 their right to vote, reduce participation, and stand in
8 direct opposition to our country's trend of including
9 more Americans in the democratic process.

10 2. Voter identification laws are unnecessary in
11 Iowa, which is one of the very best states in the
12 nation for voter integrity.

13 3. There are zero documented instances of voter
14 impersonation fraud in Iowa, the type of fraud voter
15 identification laws seek to prevent.

16 4. Approximately eleven percent of adult Iowans,
17 roughly two hundred sixty thousand individuals, do not
18 have a driver's license.

19 5. Even higher numbers of African American
20 Iowans do not have a driver's license, with up to
21 twenty-five percent of African Americans not possessing
22 a government-issued photo identification document.

23 6. In the five counties where almost seventy
24 percent of African American Iowans live, the rates
25 of African Americans without a government issued
26 photo identification document may exceed the national
27 percentage.

28 7. In Black Hawk county, African Americans make up
29 only ten percent of voting age residents, but comprise
30 twenty-seven percent of those without an identification
31 document issued by the department of transportation.

32 8. In Scott county, African Americans make up only
33 nine percent of voting age residents, but comprise
34 twenty-four percent of those without an identification
35 document issued by the department of transportation.

1 9. In Polk county, African Americans make up only
2 eight percent of voting age residents, but twenty-one
3 percent of those without an identification document
4 issued by the department of transportation.

5 10. In Johnson county, African Americans make up
6 only six percent of voting age residents, but eighteen
7 percent of those without an identification document
8 issued by the department of transportation.

9 11. In Linn county, African Americans make up
10 only six percent of voting age residents, but sixteen
11 percent of those without an identification document
12 issued by the department of transportation.

13 12. While approximately eleven percent of adult
14 Iowans do not have an identification document issued by
15 the department of transportation, that number is higher
16 for older Iowans, with approximately fifteen percent
17 of Iowans age sixty-five and over not possessing such
18 an identification document.

19 13. The negative impact of signature verification
20 for absentee voting may be especially widespread in
21 Iowa, as a state with one of the highest rates of voter
22 participation through absentee balloting, with between
23 thirty and forty percent of all people voting absentee
24 ballots in recent general elections.

25 14. Signature verification may disproportionately
26 impact older Iowans, with more than half of all Iowans
27 age sixty-five and older who voted in recent elections
28 having chosen to vote by absentee ballot, while only
29 approximately thirty percent of those voters between
30 twenty-five and forty-nine years of age having chosen
31 to vote by absentee ballot.

32 15. Nationally, ten percent of people with
33 disabilities do not have photo identification
34 documents, while that rate is twelve percent in Iowa.

35 16. Iowans living with disabilities are less likely

1 to have photo identification documents than Iowans
2 without disabilities.

3 17. There exist large disparities in rates of
4 possession of identification documents issued by the
5 department of transportation in the counties with the
6 highest percentage of Iowans living with disabilities.

7 18. Only twelve percent of all Iowans have a
8 disability, while twenty-eight percent of Iowans who do
9 not drive have a disability.

10 19. Only eighteen percent of Montgomery county
11 residents have a disability, while thirty-nine percent
12 of Montgomery county residents who do not drive have a
13 disability.

14 20. Only eighteen percent of Decatur county
15 residents have a disability, while thirty-nine percent
16 of Decatur county residents who do not drive have a
17 disability.

18 21. Only seventeen percent of Mills county
19 residents have a disability, while thirty-seven percent
20 of Mills county residents who do not drive have a
21 disability.>

22 2. Title page, by striking lines 1 through 9 and
23 inserting <An Act providing legislative findings
24 related to voter identification laws.>

R. SMITH of Black Hawk