

March 31, 1967  
Cities & Towns *Pass 4-19*  
*Governmental Subdivisions 5-15, Pass 5-25*

House File 608

By TAPSCOTT, ANDERSEN, CAMP,  
MILLER of Des Moines and  
PALMER

Passed House, Date 5-11-67 Passed Senate, Date 6-7-67  
Vote: Ayes 83 Nays 4 Vote: Ayes 44 Nays 0  
Approved June 22, 1967

## A BILL FOR

An Act relating to municipal elections in cities over ten thousand (10,000) population providing the option of a run-off election in lieu of a primary.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

1 Section 1. Chapter three hundred sixty-three (363), Code  
2 1966, is hereby amended by adding thereto the following new  
3 section:

4 "The council of any city having a population of more than  
5 ten thousand (10,000) may by ordinance provide that sections  
6 three hundred sixty-three point sixteen (363.16) through three  
7 hundred sixty-three point twenty-one (363.21), section three  
8 hundred sixty-three point twenty-four (363.24), and section  
9 three hundred sixty-three point twenty-five (363.25) of the  
10 Code shall not apply to such city if the ordinance provides  
11 for a run-off election as set forth in this section. Any such  
12 run-off election shall be held two (2) weeks after the regular  
13 municipal election if the following conditions result:

14 1. If no candidate for a single office receives a majority  
15 of the votes cast, the two (2) candidates receiving the largest  
16 number of votes shall be placed upon the run-off ballot.

17 2. Where candidates for council or other bodies run at  
18 large, the results shall be ranked in order of votes received.  
19 If any of the top candidates, to the number of positions to  
20 be filled, receive less than a majority of the votes cast at

21 the election, those candidates receiving a majority of the  
22 votes cast shall be declared elected. Those candidates re-  
23 ceiving the next highest number of votes but not having a  
24 majority, to the number of twice the number of unfilled posi-  
25 tions, shall be placed on the run-off ballot.

26 All provisions for conducting municipal elections shall  
27 apply to run-off elections except that there shall be no  
28 added voter registrations accepted for said election but  
29 transfers may be accepted until ten (10) days before the elec-  
30 tion, as now provided under law.

#### EXPLANATION

This bill gives cities, now required to have a primary elec-  
tion if more than twice the number of candidates file for an office  
or council or board as there are positions to be filled, the option  
of omitting the primary and conducting a run-off election if there  
is any office or position for which the top candidates do not re-  
ceive a majority of the votes cast. Since experience has shown  
that many of the extra candidates whose candidacy now forces a  
primary receive so few votes in the election that their votes do  
not affect the selection of majority winning candidates, this bill  
will permit cities to save the cost of the second election in many  
instances.