

2/26/97 Do Pass
4/7/97 Referred to State Gov.

JAN 31 1997
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 140
BY HOUSER, MARTIN, GRUNDBERG,
BRAUNS, KLEMME, HEATON,
TYRRELL, VANDE HOEF, BOGGESS,
DRAKE, MEYER, HAHN, RAYHONS,
KREMER, CARROLL, BARRY,
HANSEN, JENKINS, ARNOLD,
WEIDMAN, EDDIE, WELTER,
HUSEMAN, LORD, and GIPP

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the closing hour of precinct polling places.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 140

1 Section 1. Section 49.73, subsection 2, Code 1997, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. The commissioner shall not shorten voting hours for any
4 election if there is filed in the commissioner's office, at
5 least twenty-five days before the election, a petition signed
6 by at least fifty eligible electors of the school district or
7 city, as the case may be, requesting that the polls be opened
8 not later than seven o'clock a.m. All polling places where
9 the candidates of or any public question submitted by any one
10 political subdivision are being voted upon shall be opened at
11 the same hour, except that this requirement shall not apply to
12 merged areas established under chapter 260C. The hours at
13 which the respective precinct polling places are to open shall
14 not be changed after publication of the notice required by
15 section 49.53. The polling places shall be closed at nine
16 o'clock eight p.m. for ~~state-primary-and-general-elections-and~~
17 ~~other-partisan-elections, and for any other election held~~
18 ~~concurrently therewith, and at eight o'clock p.m. for~~ all
19 other elections.

20 EXPLANATION

21 This bill changes from 9 p.m. to 8 p.m. the hour at which
22 precinct polling places are to close for partisan elections
23 and any election held concurrently with a partisan election.

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HOUSE FILE 140

H-1293

1 Amend House File 140 as follows:

2 1. Page 1, line 16, by striking the word "eight"
3 and inserting the following: "eight-thirty".

By FALLON of Polk

H-1293 FILED MARCH 24, 1997

HOUSE FILE 140

H-1294

1 Amend House File 140 as follows:

2 1. Page 1, by inserting after line 19 the
3 following:

4 "Sec. 2. Section 1 of this Act is repealed,
5 effective July 1, 1999. The Code editor shall, upon
6 repeal of section 1 of this Act, return the language
7 of section 49.73, subsection 2, to the language
8 contained in that subsection in the 1997 Code of Iowa.

9 Sec. 3. By January 15, 1999, the secretary of
10 state shall report to the general assembly on the
11 comparison of voter turnout rates at those elections
12 where the polls closed at eight o'clock and such
13 elections held prior to enactment of this Act where
14 the polls closed at nine o'clock. The report shall
15 focus, in particular, on those voter precincts where
16 voter turnout, when compared to the number of
17 registered voters in the precinct, has been lower than
18 the average statewide."

19 2. By renumbering as necessary.

By FALLON of Polk

H-1294 FILED MARCH 24, 1997

**HOUSE FILE 140
FISCAL NOTE**

A fiscal note for House File 140 is hereby submitted pursuant to Joint Rule 17. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to members of the Legislature upon request.

House File 140 changes from 9 p.m. to 8 p.m. the hour at which precinct polling places are to close for partisan elections and elections held concurrently with partisan elections.

ASSUMPTIONS

1. Closing precinct polling places at 8 p.m. will require poll workers to work one hour less per election per year.
2. Poll workers will staff one primary election and one general election per year.
3. The number of poll workers required to staff precinct polling places during upcoming elections will remain unchanged from staffing levels required during the most recent general and primary elections.
4. The statewide salary cost of providing poll workers to staff primary election precinct polling places for one hour is \$47,242.
5. The statewide salary cost of providing poll workers to staff general election precinct polling places for one hour is \$57,836.
6. Salaries paid to poll workers are the only savings that will result from closing precinct polling places at 8 p.m.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill will have no fiscal impact on the State General Fund because precinct polling places for partisan elections and elections held concurrently with partisan elections are funded by county governments.

The bill will save county governments approximately \$100,000 annually in general election years. Additional savings will be realized by counties conducting special elections to fill vacancies in partisan offices. The additional savings for special elections cannot be determined because the number of special elections cannot be accurately predicted.

SOURCES

Office of the Secretary of State

(LSB 1412hh, DAA)

FILED FEBRUARY 11, 1997

BY DENNIS PROUTY, FISCAL DIRECTOR