

FEB 20 1997
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 315
BY BRADLEY

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to straight ticket voting.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 315

1 Section 1. Section 49.92, Code 1997, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 49.92 VOTING MARK.

4 The voting mark shall be a cross or check which shall be
5 placed ~~in-the-circle-at-the-head-of-a-ticket,-or~~ in the
6 squares opposite the names of candidates. The fact that the
7 voting mark is made by an instrument other than a black lead
8 pencil shall not affect the validity of the ballot unless it
9 appears that the color or nature of the mark is intended to
10 identify the ballot contrary to the intent of section 49.107,
11 subsection 7.

12 Sec. 2. Section 49.98, Code 1997, is amended to read as
13 follows:

14 49.98 COUNTING BALLOTS.

15 The ballots shall be counted according to the markings
16 thereon, respectively, as provided in sections 49.92 ~~to-49-97~~
17 and 49.93, and not otherwise. If, for any reason, it is
18 impossible to determine from a ballot, as marked, the choice
19 of the voter for any office, such ballot shall not be counted
20 for such office. ~~When-there-is-a-conflict-between-the-cross~~
21 ~~or-check-in-the-circle-on-one-ticket-and-the-cross-or-check-in~~
22 ~~the-square-on-another-ticket-on-the-ballot,-the-cross-or-check~~
23 ~~in-the-square-shall-be-held-to-control,-and-the-cross-or-check~~
24 ~~in-the-circle-in-such-case-shall-not-apply-as-to-that-office.~~
25 Any ballot marked in any other manner than as authorized in
26 sections 49.92 ~~to-49-97~~ and 49.93, and in such manner as to
27 show that the voter employed such mark for the purpose of
28 identifying the voter's ballot, shall be rejected.

29 Sec. 3. The Code editor is directed to strike from section
30 49.42, Code 1997, the circles placed on the ballot to the left
31 of each political party named on the ballot.

32 Sec. 4. Sections 49.94 through 49.97, Code 1997, are
33 repealed.

34 EXPLANATION

35 This bill removes straight ticket voting as an option from

1 the general election ballot.

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