

JAN 20 1999  
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE **116**  
BY TYRRELL

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to written summaries of proposed constitutional  
2 amendments or of certain other public measures and including  
3 effective date and applicability date provisions.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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**HF 116**

1 Section 1. Section 13.2, Code 1999, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 14. Assist the state commissioner of  
4 elections in preparing written summaries of constitutional  
5 amendments or other public measures as required by section  
6 49.44.

7 Sec. 2. Section 49.43, unnumbered paragraph 3, Code 1999,  
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 Constitutional amendments and other public measures may to  
10 be decided by the voters of the entire state shall be  
11 summarized by the state commissioner as provided in sections  
12 section 49.44 and. Other public measures shall be summarized  
13 by the commissioner as provided in section 52.25.

14 Sec. 3. Section 49.44, unnumbered paragraph 3, Code 1999,  
15 is amended to read as follows:

16 The commissioner ~~may~~ shall prepare a summary for public  
17 measures ~~if-the-commissioner-finds-that-a-summary-is-needed-to~~  
18 clarify for the purpose of clarifying the question to the  
19 voters. The summary describing the constitutional amendment  
20 or public measure shall be written using terminology easily  
21 understandable to the general public. The state commissioner  
22 shall receive assistance from the office of attorney general  
23 in preparing the written summary.

24 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY. This Act, being  
25 deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment  
26 and applies to elections held on or after the effective date  
27 of this Act.

28 EXPLANATION

29 This bill requires the state commissioner of elections to  
30 prepare a written summary of any constitutional amendment or  
31 other public measure to be voted on statewide. Current law  
32 leaves preparation of such a summary to the discretion of the  
33 state commissioner.

34 The bill requires that the summary be written using  
35 terminology easily understood by the general public. The bill

1 requires the attorney general to assist the state commissioner  
2 in preparing the summary.

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