

*1/25/99 2/16/99 Do Pass  
4/6/99 Returned to State Gov.*

JAN 21 1999

STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 125

BY SIEGRIST

*1/25/99 sponsor added - Davis*

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

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

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*HF 125*

1 Section 1. Section 49.37, subsection 1, unnumbered  
2 paragraph 1, Code 1999, is amended by striking the unnumbered  
3 paragraph and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

4 A ballot shall not contain a straight party or organization  
5 section for the voter to mark. Straight party voting shall  
6 not be provided for general elections or for any other  
7 elections in which more than one partisan office will be  
8 filled.

9 Sec. 2. Section 49.42A, Code 1999, is amended to read as  
10 follows:

11 49.42A FORM OF OFFICIAL BALLOT.

12 The ballot for the general election shall be arranged in  
13 substantially the following form:

14 PARTISAN-OFFICES-STRAIGHT-PARTY-VOTING

15 ~~To vote for all candidates from a single party mark the~~  
16 ~~voting target next to the party name. Not all parties have~~  
17 ~~nominated candidates for all offices. Marking a straight~~  
18 ~~party vote does not include votes for nonpartisan offices,~~  
19 ~~judges, or questions.~~

20 POLITICAL-PARTY-NAME

21 POLITICAL-PARTY-NAME

22 POLITICAL-ORGANIZATION-NAME

23 POLITICAL-ORGANIZATION-NAME

24 OTHER-POLITICAL-ORGANIZATIONS

25 ~~The following political organizations have nominated~~  
26 ~~candidates for only one office:~~

27 POLITICAL-ORGANIZATION-NAME

28 POLITICAL-ORGANIZATION-NAME

29 FEDERAL OFFICES

30 For President and Vice President

31 Vote for no more than one team

32 CANDIDATE NAME, of State

33 CANDIDATE NAME, of State

34 Political Party

35 CANDIDATE NAME, of State

1 CANDIDATE NAME, of State  
 2 Political Party  
 3 CANDIDATE NAME, of State  
 4 CANDIDATE NAME, of State  
 5 Political Organization Name  
 6 CANDIDATE NAME, of State  
 7 CANDIDATE NAME, of State  
 8 Political Organization Name  
 9 CANDIDATE NAME, of State  
 10 CANDIDATE NAME, of State  
 11 Nominated by Petition  
 12 .....  
 13 Write-in for President, if any.  
 14 .....  
 15 Write-in for Vice President, if any.  
 16 For U. S. Senator  
 17 Vote for no more than one.  
 18 CANDIDATE NAME  
 19 Political Party  
 20 CANDIDATE NAME  
 21 Political Party  
 22 CANDIDATE NAME  
 23 Political Organization  
 24 CANDIDATE NAME  
 25 Political Organization  
 26 CANDIDATE NAME  
 27 Nominated by Petition  
 28 .....  
 29 Write-in vote, if any.  
 30 For U. S. Representative  
 31 First District  
 32 Vote for no more than one.  
 33 CANDIDATE NAME  
 34 Political Party  
 35 CANDIDATE NAME

1 Political Party  
 2 CANDIDATE NAME  
 3 Political Organization  
 4 CANDIDATE NAME  
 5 Political Organization  
 6 CANDIDATE NAME  
 7 Nominated by Petition  
 8 .....  
 9 Write-in vote, if any.

STATE OFFICES

For State Senator, District 2  
 Vote for no more than one.

13 CANDIDATE NAME  
 14 Political Party  
 15 CANDIDATE NAME  
 16 Political Party  
 17 CANDIDATE NAME  
 18 Political Organization  
 19 CANDIDATE NAME  
 20 Political Organization  
 21 CANDIDATE NAME  
 22 Nominated by Petition  
 23 .....  
 24 Write-in vote, if any.

25 Sec. 3. Section 49.57, subsection 2, Code 1999, is amended  
26 to read as follows:

27 2. ~~In the area of the general election ballot for straight~~  
 28 ~~party voting, the party names shall be printed in capital~~  
 29 ~~letters of uniform size, in not less than twelve point type.~~  
 30 After the name of each candidate for a partisan office the  
 31 name of the candidate's political party shall be printed in at  
 32 least six point type.

33 Sec. 4. Section 49.98, Code 1999, is amended to read as  
34 follows:

35 49.98 COUNTING BALLOTS.

1 The ballots shall be counted according to the voters' marks  
2 on them as provided in sections 49.92 ~~to-49-97~~ and 49.93, and  
3 not otherwise. If, for any reason, it is impossible to  
4 determine from a ballot, as marked, the choice of the voter  
5 for any office, the vote for that office shall not be counted.  
6 ~~When there is a conflict between a straight party or~~  
7 ~~organization vote for one political party or nonparty~~  
8 ~~political organization and the vote cast by marking the voting~~  
9 ~~target next to the name of a candidate for another political~~  
10 ~~party or nonparty political organization on the ballot, the~~  
11 ~~mark next to the name of the candidate shall be held to~~  
12 ~~control, and the straight party or organization vote in that~~  
13 ~~case shall not apply as to that office.~~ Any ballot shall be  
14 rejected if it is marked in any other manner than authorized  
15 in sections 49.92 ~~to-49-97~~ and 49.93. A ballot shall be  
16 rejected if the voter used a mark to identify the voter's  
17 ballot.

18 Sec. 5. Section 52.12, Code 1999, is amended to read as  
19 follows:

20 52.12 ~~EXCEPTION~~ PROHIBITION -- STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING.

21 Voting machines used in this state shall not have a single  
22 lever or switch which casts a vote for each candidate of a  
23 political party or nonparty political organization which has  
24 nominated candidates for more than one partisan office on the  
25 ballot. Straight party voting shall not be provided for ~~at~~  
26 general elections or for any other elections in which more  
27 than one partisan office will be filled.

28 Sec. 6. Sections 49.94, 49.95, 49.96, and 49.97, Code  
29 1999, are repealed.

30 EXPLANATION

31 This bill abolishes straight party voting in the general  
32 election and all other elections in which more than one  
33 partisan office will be filled.

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