

JAN 27 1999

STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 158
BY REYNOLDS

(COMPANION TO LSB 1825SS
BY BOLKCOM)

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the definition of political party.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 158

1 Section 1. Section 43.2, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code
2 1999, is amended to read as follows:

3 The term "political party" shall mean a party which, at
4 either of the last two preceding general election elections,
5 cast for its candidate for president of the United States or
6 for governor any statewide elective office in Iowa, as the
7 case may be, at least two percent of the total vote cast for
8 all candidates for that office at that election. It shall be
9 the responsibility of the state commissioner to determine
10 whether any organization claiming to be a political party
11 qualifies as such under the foregoing definition.

12 EXPLANATION

13 This bill changes the definition of "political party" to
14 mean any party whose candidate for president of the United
15 States or for any statewide elective office in Iowa received
16 at least 2 percent of the total votes cast for that office in
17 either of the last two general elections. Current law defines
18 "political party" as a party whose candidate for United States
19 president or governor received 2 percent of the total votes
20 cast for either office at the preceding general election.

21 Recognition as a political party under Iowa law determines,
22 among other things, which parties may nominate candidates at
23 the primary election and which parties may automatically
24 participate in the presidential caucuses. Also, recognition
25 as a political party under Iowa law means that the party is
26 eligible to receive funds from the Iowa election campaign fund
27 into which is deposited moneys received from the election
28 campaign income tax checkoff.

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