3/8/01 Do Pass 5.3/19/01 State Low 5.4.2.01 Do Pass

## MAR 2 2001

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# STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 481 BY GRUNDBERG

ec/cf/24

Passed	House, (P.750) Date 3-19-01	Passed Senate, Date 4-9-01						
Vote:	Ayes <u>95</u> Nays <u>/</u>	Vote: Ayes <u>46</u> Nays <u>0</u>						
	Approved <u>Garil</u>	18,2001						

A BILL FOR

An	Act	: rel	atin	ig t	o tl	he	estab	lishm	ent	of	city	precin	ncts	and	l
	pro	ovidi	ng a	n e	ffe	cti	ve da	te.							
BE	IT	ENAC	TED	BY	THE	GE	NERAL	ASSE	MBLY	OF	THE	STATE	OF	IOWA	.:
		pro	providi	providing a	providing an e	providing an effe	providing an effectiv	providing an effective da	providing an effective date.	<pre>An Act relating to the establishment of city precincts and providing an effective date. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA</pre>					

HF 481

s.f. \_\_\_\_\_ H.f. 481

1 Section 1. Section 49.5, Code 2001, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 49.5 CITY PRECINCTS.

4 The council of a city where establishment of more than one 5 precinct is necessary or deemed advisable shall at the time 6 required by law, divide the city into the number of election 7 precincts as will best serve the convenience of the voters 8 while promoting electoral efficiency. As used in this 9 section, the term "the convenience of the voters" refers to, 10 but is not necessarily limited to, the use of precinct 11 boundaries which can be readily described to and identified by 12 voters and for which there is ease of access by voters to 13 their respective precinct polling places by reasonably direct 14 routes of travel. As used in this section, the term 15 "promoting electoral efficiency" means reducing the cost of 16 staffing election precincts by requiring cities to avoid 17 creating more precincts than is reasonably necessary to 18 provide voters access to voting.

19 The precinct boundaries shall conform to section 49.3 and 20 shall be described in an ordinance adopted by the council 21 within the time required by section 49.7. Before final 22 adoption of any change in election precinct boundaries 23 pursuant to this section or section 49.6, the council shall 24 permit the commissioner not less than seven and not more than 25 ten days time to offer written comments to the council on the 26 proposed reprecincting. If the commissioner recommends 27 changes in the proposed reprecincting which the commissioner 28 concludes could better serve the convenience of the voters or 29 could promote electoral efficiency, including lowering 30 election costs, the council shall, if no changes to the 31 reprecincting are made, include reasons in the ordinance for 32 not adopting the proposed changes of the commissioner. A 33 public hearing shall be held before final adoption of the 34 ordinance. Notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing 35 shall be given as provided in chapter 21.

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s.f. \_\_\_\_\_ H.f. \_\_\_\_\_\_

1 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of 2 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment. 3 EXPLANATION 4 This bill concerns the requirements and process used for 5 cities to establish new election precincts. The bill requires cities to draw precincts in a manner that 6 7 promotes electoral efficiency by requiring cities to avoid 8 creating more precincts than is necessary to serve the 9 convenience of the voters. In addition, the bill specifically 10 authorizes the county commissioner of elections to suggest 11 changes to a proposed reprecincting if the commissioner feels 12 the changes would better promote electoral efficiency or 13 better serve the voter. If the commissioner does suggest 14 changes, the bill requires the city, if it does not make 15 changes to its proposed reprecincting, to include reasons for 16 rejecting the changes in the ordinance that adopts the new 17 precincts. 18 The bill takes effect upon enactment. 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35

LSB 1309HH 79 ec/cf/24

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#### HOUSE FILE 481

### AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CITY PRECINCTS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Section 1. Section 49.5, Code 2001, is amended to read as follows:

49.5 CITY PRECINCTS.

The council of a city where establishment of more than one precinct is necessary or deemed advisable shall at the time required by law, divide the city into the number of election precincts as will best serve the convenience of the voters while promoting electoral efficiency. As used in this section, the term "the convenience of the voters" refers to, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of precinct boundaries which can be readily described to and identified by voters and for which there is ease of access by voters to their respective precinct polling places by reasonably direct routes of travel. As used in this section, the term "promoting electoral efficiency" means reducing the cost of staffing election precincts by requiring cities to avoid creating more precincts than is reasonably necessary to provide voters access to voting.

The precinct boundaries shall conform to section 49.3 and shall be described in an ordinance adopted by the council within the time required by section 49.7. Before final adoption of any change in election precinct boundaries pursuant to this section or section 49.6, the council shall permit the commissioner not less than seven and not more than ten days time to offer written comments to the council on the proposed reprecincting. If the commissioner recommends changes in the proposed reprecincting which the commissioner concludes could better serve the convenience of the voters or could promote electoral efficiency, including lowering election costs, the council shall, if no changes to the reprecincting are made, include reasons in the ordinance for not adopting the proposed changes of the commissioner. A public hearing shall be held before final adoption of the ordinance. Notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing shall be given as provided in chapter 21.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

BRENT SIEGRIST Speaker of the House

MARY E. KRAMER President of the Senate

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the House and is known as House File 481, Seventy-ninth General Assembly.

Approved mail S. 2001

MARGARET THOMSON Chief Clerk of the House

THOMAS J. VILSACK Governor