

FILED MAR 24 1974

SENATE FILE 2279
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3160)

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to petition requirements for establishing a
2 satellite absentee voting station.

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

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SF 2279
STATE GOVERNMENT

1 Section 1. Section 53.11, subsection 1, Code 2003, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. Satellite absentee voting stations may be established
4 throughout the cities and county at the direction of the
5 commissioner and shall be established upon receipt of a
6 petition signed by ~~not less than one hundred~~ eligible electors
7 requesting that a satellite absentee voting station be
8 established at a location to be described on the petition.

9 The number of eligible electors required to sign a petition to
10 establish a satellite absentee voting station is as follows:

11 a. In a county or a city with a population of less than
12 ten thousand, one hundred eligible electors.

13 b. In a county or a city with a population of ten thousand
14 or more but less than fifty thousand, two hundred fifty
15 eligible electors.

16 c. In a county or a city with a population of fifty
17 thousand or more but less than one hundred thousand, five
18 hundred eligible electors.

19 d. In a county or a city with a population of one hundred
20 thousand or more, seven hundred fifty eligible electors.

21 PARAGRAPH DIVIDED. A satellite absentee voting station
22 established by petition must be open at least one day for a
23 minimum of six hours. A satellite absentee voting station
24 established at the direction of the commissioner or by
25 petition may remain open until five p.m. on the day before the
26 election.

27 EXPLANATION

28 This bill changes the petition requirements for
29 establishment of satellite absentee voting stations.

30 Under current law, the county commissioner of elections
31 shall establish a satellite absentee voting station upon
32 petition signed by not less than 100 eligible electors. The
33 bill changes the petition signature requirements relative to
34 the population of the county or the population of a city as
35 follows:

1 1. In a county or a city with a population of less than
2 10,000, 100 signatures of eligible electors.

3 2. In a county or a city with a population of 10,000 or
4 more but less than 50,000, 250 signatures of eligible
5 electors.

6 3. In a county or a city with a population of 50,000 or
7 more but less than 100,000, 500 signatures of eligible
8 electors.

9 4. In a county or a city with a population of 100,000 or
10 more, 750 signatures of eligible electors.

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SENATE FILE 2279

S-5075

1 Amend Senate File 2279 as follows:

2 1. Page 1, by striking lines 9 and 10, and
3 inserting the following: "If the location described
4 on the petition is in the unincorporated area of a
5 county, the petition requesting establishment of a
6 satellite absentee voting station shall be signed by
7 not less than one hundred eligible electors. If the
8 location described on the petition is in a city, the
9 number of eligible electors required to sign a
10 petition requesting establishment of a satellite
11 absentee voting station is as follows:"

12 2. Page 1, line 11, by striking the words "county
13 or a".

14 3. Page 1, line 13, by striking the words "county
15 or a".

16 4. Page 1, line 16, by striking the words "county
17 or a".

18 5. Page 1, line 19, by striking the words "county
19 or a".

By MARK ZIEMAN

S-5075 FILED MARCH 10, 2004

SENATE FILE 2279

S-5127

1 Amend Senate File 2279 as follows:

2 1. Page 1, by inserting before line 1, the
3 following:

4 "Section 1. NEW SECTION. 53.3 ONGOING ABSENTEE
5 VOTER.

6 A registered voter applying for an absentee ballot
7 under section 53.2 using the state commissioner's
8 prescribed form for absentee ballot applications may
9 request to receive an absentee ballot for each
10 subsequent general election in which that person is
11 eligible to vote, and qualifies under section 53.1.
12 The state commissioner shall provide on the prescribed
13 form a check box for this purpose. For each
14 subsequent general election, the commissioner shall
15 automatically mail an absentee ballot to the
16 requesting voter, or automatically deliver an absentee
17 ballot to a confined person pursuant to section 53.22.
18 A voter's status as an ongoing absentee voter shall be
19 terminated upon the request of the voter, by the
20 commissioner if the voter fails to qualify under
21 section 53.1, or if the voter fails to vote in a
22 subsequent general election."

23 2. Title page, line 1, by inserting after the
24 word "to" the following: "absentee voting by allowing
25 ongoing absentee voter status and by modifying".

26 3. By renumbering as necessary.

By JOE BOLKCOM

S-5127 FILED MARCH 23, 2004
RULED OUT OF ORDER

SENATE FILE **2279**
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3160)

(AS AMENDED AND PASSED BY THE SENATE MARCH 23, 2004)

_____ - New Language by the Senate
* - Language Stricken by the Senate

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to petition requirements for establishing a
2 satellite absentee voting station.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

S.F. 2279

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1 Section 1. Section 53.11, subsection 1, Code 2003, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. Satellite absentee voting stations may be established
4 throughout the cities and county at the direction of the
5 commissioner and shall be established upon receipt of a
6 petition signed by ~~not less than one hundred~~ eligible electors
7 requesting that a satellite absentee voting station be
8 established at a location to be described on the petition. If
9 the location described on the petition is in the
10 unincorporated area of a county, the petition requesting
11 establishment of a satellite absentee voting station shall be
12 signed by not less than one hundred eligible electors. If the
13 location described on the petition is in a city, the number of
14 eligible electors required to sign a petition requesting
15 establishment of a satellite absentee voting station is as
16 follows:

*17 a. In a city with a population of less than ten thousand,
18 one hundred eligible electors.

*19 b. In a city with a population of ten thousand or more but
20 less than fifty thousand, two hundred fifty eligible electors.

*21 c. In a city with a population of fifty thousand or more
22 but less than one hundred thousand, five hundred eligible
23 electors.

*24 d. In a city with a population of one hundred thousand or
25 more, seven hundred fifty eligible electors.

26 PARAGRAPH DIVIDED. A satellite absentee voting station
27 established by petition must be open at least one day for a
28 minimum of six hours. A satellite absentee voting station
29 established at the direction of the commissioner or by
30 petition may remain open until five p.m. on the day before the
31 election.

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SENATE FILE 2279

H-8323

- 1 Amend Senate File 2279, as amended, passed, and
2 reprinted by the Senate, as follows:
3 1. Page 1, line 28, by striking the word "six"
4 and inserting the following: "six four".
5 2. Title page, line 1, by striking the words
6 "requirements for establishing" and inserting the
7 following: "and operating hour requirements for".

H-8323 FILED MARCH 26, 2004

By COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT
ELGIN of Linn, Chairperson

SENATE FILE 2279

H-8353

- 1 Amend Senate File 2279, as amended, passed, and
2 reprinted by the Senate, as follows:
3 1. Page 1, by striking lines 19 through 25 and
4 inserting the following:
5 "b. In a city with a population of ten thousand or
6 more, two hundred eligible electors."

By GASKILL of Wapello
MASCHER of Johnson

H-8353 FILED MARCH 31, 2004

SENATE FILE 2279

H-8437

- 1 Amend Senate File 2279, as amended, passed, and
2 reprinted by the Senate, as follows:
3 1. Page 1, line 8, by inserting after the word
4 "petition." the following: "A petition requesting
5 establishment of a satellite absentee voting station
6 shall also list the precincts for which the
7 commissioner is to provide ballots at the satellite
8 absentee voting station."

By PETERSEN of Polk

H-8437 FILED APRIL 6, 2004
ADOPTED

HOUSE AMENDMENT TO
SENATE FILE 2279

S-5291

1 Amend Senate File 2279, as amended, passed, and
2 reprinted by the Senate, as follows:

3 1. Page 1, line 8, by inserting after the word
4 "petition." the following: "A petition requesting
5 establishment of a satellite absentee voting station
6 shall also list the precincts for which the
7 commissioner is to provide ballots at the satellite
8 absentee voting station."

9 2. Page 1, line 28, by striking the word "six"
10 and inserting the following: "~~six~~ four".

11 3. Title page, line 1, by striking the words
12 "requirements for establishing" and inserting the
13 following: "and operating hour requirements for".

14 4. By renumbering, relettering, or redesignating
15 and correcting internal references as necessary.

RECEIVED FROM THE HOUSE

S-5291 FILED APRIL 7, 2004

Zieman
Sievers
Dearden

SSB# 3160
State Government

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
STATE GOVERNMENT BILL
BY CHAIRPERSON ZIEMAN)

Succeeded By
① / HF 2279

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

A BILL FOR

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34 the population of the county as follows:

35 1. In a county with a population of less than 10,000, 100

1 signatures of eligible electors.

2 2. In a county with a population of 10,000 or more but
3 less than 50,000, 250 signatures of eligible electors.

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April 16, 2004

The Honorable Jeffrey Lamberti
President of the Senate
State Capitol Building
L O C A L

Dear President Lamberti:

I hereby transmit **Senate File 2279**, an Act relating to petition and operating hour requirements for a satellite absentee voting station.

I am unable to approve **Senate File 2279**. When we live in a state and country where less than 50 percent of eligible voters are registered to vote and less than 50 percent of those registered actually make an effort to vote, I believe we should be examining ways to make it easier for our citizens to participate in the election process. As President John F. Kennedy said, "The right to vote in a free American election is the most powerful and precious right in the world."

We should be looking for opportunities to increase participation in the electoral process. Therefore, our legislative efforts should not create additional hurdles to participation in the electoral process. Satellite voting provides Iowans with another important opportunity to exercise their right to vote. We should not be making that opportunity more difficult. SF 2279 is a partisan bill that makes it harder, not easier, to vote by creating petition requirements that are far more difficult to attain.

Further, this bill sets a different standard for urban legislative districts than for rural legislative districts in the number of signatures required to set up a satellite voting station. Each legislative district has the same number of constituents. However, if candidates' districts have different sized cities, the

petition requirements for a satellite voting station will be different. The system established by this bill is inequitable and discourages voter participation.

For the above reasons, I hereby respectfully disapprove **Senate File 2279**.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Governor

TJV:jtm

cc: Secretary of the Senate
Chief Clerk of the House

VETO

SENATE FILE 2279

AN ACT
RELATING TO PETITION AND OPERATING HOUR REQUIREMENTS FOR A
SATELLITE ABSENTEE VOTING STATION.

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

Section 1. Section 53.11, subsection 1, Code 2003, is amended to read as follows:

1. Satellite absentee voting stations may be established throughout the cities and county at the direction of the commissioner and shall be established upon receipt of a petition signed by not less than one hundred eligible electors requesting that a satellite absentee voting station be established at a location to be described on the petition. A petition requesting establishment of a satellite absentee voting station shall also list the precincts for which the commissioner is to provide ballots at the satellite absentee voting station. If the location described on the petition is in the unincorporated area of a county, the petition requesting establishment of a satellite absentee voting station shall be signed by not less than one hundred eligible electors. If the location described on the petition is in a city, the number of eligible electors required to sign a petition requesting establishment of a satellite absentee voting station is as follows:

- a. In a city with a population of less than ten thousand, one hundred eligible electors.
- b. In a city with a population of ten thousand or more but less than fifty thousand, two hundred fifty eligible electors.
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d. In a city with a population of one hundred thousand or more, seven hundred fifty eligible electors.

PARAGRAPH DIVIDED. A satellite absentee voting station established by petition must be open at least one day for a minimum of six four hours. A satellite absentee voting station established at the direction of the commissioner or by petition may remain open until five p.m. on the day before the election.

JEFFREY M. LAMBERTI
President of the Senate

CHRISTOPHER C. RANTS
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the Senate and is known as Senate File 2279, Eightieth General Assembly.

MICHAEL E. MARSHALL
Secretary of the Senate

Approved _____, 2004

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Governor