

House File 315 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 315

BY COWNIE

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the option of voting straight party at
2 certain elections.

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

1 Section 1. Section 49.37, subsection 1, Code 2011, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. For general elections, and for other elections in which
4 more than one partisan office will be filled, the ~~first section~~
5 ~~of the ballot shall be for straight party voting~~ arranged as
6 provided in this section.

7 ~~a. Each political party or organization which has~~
8 ~~nominated candidates for more than one office shall be listed.~~
9 ~~Instructions to the voter for straight party or organization~~
10 ~~voting shall be in substantially the following form:~~

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

17 ~~b. Political parties and nonparty political organizations~~
18 ~~which have nominated candidates for only one office shall~~
19 ~~be listed below the other political organizations under the~~
20 ~~following heading:~~

21 ~~Other Political Organizations. The following organizations~~
22 ~~have nominated candidates for only one office:~~

23 ~~c. 1A. Offices shall be arranged in groups. Partisan~~
24 ~~offices, nonpartisan offices, judges, and public measures shall~~
25 ~~be separated by a distinct line appearing on the ballot.~~

26 Sec. 2. Section 49.57, subsection 2, Code 2011, is amended
27 to read as follows:

28 2. ~~In the area of the general election ballot for straight~~
29 ~~party voting, the party or organization names shall be printed~~
30 ~~in upper case and lower case letters using a uniform font size~~
31 ~~for each political party or nonparty political organization.~~
32 ~~The font size shall be not less than twelve point type. After~~
33 ~~the name of each candidate for a partisan office the name of~~
34 ~~the candidate's political party shall be printed in at least~~
35 ~~six point type. The names of political parties and nonparty~~

1 ~~political organizations may be abbreviated on the remainder of~~
2 ~~the ballot if both the full name and the abbreviation appear~~
3 ~~in the "Straight Party" and "Other Political Party" areas of~~
4 ~~the ballot.~~

5 Sec. 3. Section 49.98, Code 2011, is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 **49.98 Counting ballots.**

8 The ballots shall be counted according to the voters' marks
9 on them as provided in sections 49.92 ~~to 49.97~~ and 49.93,
10 and not otherwise. If, for any reason, it is impossible
11 to determine from a ballot, as marked, the choice of the
12 voter for any office, the vote for that office shall not be
13 counted. ~~When there is a conflict between a straight party or~~
14 ~~organization vote for one political party or nonparty political~~
15 ~~organization and the vote cast by marking the voting target~~
16 ~~next to the name of a candidate for another political party~~
17 ~~or nonparty political organization on the ballot, the mark~~
18 ~~next to the name of the candidate shall be held to control,~~
19 ~~and the straight party or organization vote in that case shall~~
20 ~~not apply as to that office.~~ A ballot shall be rejected if
21 the voter used a mark to identify the voter's ballot. ~~For~~
22 ~~each voting system, the~~ The state commissioner shall, by rule
23 adopted pursuant to chapter 17A, develop uniform definitions of
24 what constitutes a vote.

25 Sec. 4. REPEAL. Sections 49.94, 49.95, 49.96, and 49.97,
26 Code 2011, are repealed.

27 EXPLANATION

28 This bill eliminates the option of voting straight party
29 for all candidates of a political party or nonparty political
30 organization. The bill applies to the general election and
31 elections at which more than one partisan office is to be
32 filled.