

**Senate File 2001 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2001  
BY GRONSTAL

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the age at which a registered voter is  
2 eligible to vote in a primary election.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 48A.5, subsection 2, paragraph c, Code  
2 2016, is amended to read as follows:

3 c. (1) Be at least eighteen years of age. However,  
4 for purposes of voting in a primary election, an eligible  
5 elector shall be at least eighteen years of age on the date  
6 of the general election. Completed registration forms shall  
7 be accepted from registrants who are at least seventeen and  
8 one-half years of age; ~~however,~~. For an election other than a  
9 primary election, the registration shall not be effective until  
10 the registrant reaches the age of eighteen. The commissioner  
11 of registration shall ensure that the birth date shown on the  
12 registration form is at least seventeen and one-half years  
13 earlier than the date the registration is processed.

14 (2) A For an election other than a primary election, a  
15 registrant who is at least seventeen and one-half years of age  
16 and who will be eighteen by the date of a pending election is  
17 a registered voter for the pending election for purposes of  
18 chapter 53. For purposes of voting in a primary election under  
19 chapter 53, a registrant who will be at least eighteen years of  
20 age by the date of the general election is a registered voter  
21 for the pending primary election.

22 Sec. 2. Section 48A.11, subsection 3, Code 2016, is amended  
23 to read as follows:

24 3. The following questions and statement regarding  
25 eligibility shall be included on forms that may be used for  
26 registration by mail:

27 [1] "Are you a citizen of the United States of America?"

28 [2] "Will you be eighteen years of age on or before election  
29 day?"

30 [3] "If you checked 'no' in response to either of these  
31 questions, do not complete this form. However, for purposes  
32 of voting in a primary election, you may complete this form if  
33 you are a citizen of the United States of America and you will  
34 be at least eighteen years of age on the date of the general  
35 election."

1     Sec. 3. Section 48A.26, subsection 9, Code 2016, is amended  
2 to read as follows:

3     9. When a person who is at least seventeen and one-half  
4 years of age but less than eighteen years of age registers  
5 to vote, the commissioner shall maintain a record of the  
6 registration so as to clearly indicate that it will not take  
7 effect until the registrant's eighteenth birthday and that the  
8 person is registered and qualifies to vote at any election  
9 held on or after that date. However, for purposes of voting  
10 in a primary election, the registration shall take effect  
11 immediately if the person will be at least eighteen years of  
12 age on the date of the general election.

13     Sec. 4. Section 49.79, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code 2016,  
14 is amended to read as follows:

15     b. The For an election other than a primary election, the  
16 challenged person is less than eighteen years of age as of the  
17 date of the election at which the person is offering to vote.  
18 For a primary election, the challenged person will be less than  
19 eighteen years of age on the date of the general election.

20     Sec. 5. Section 49.81, subsection 4, paragraph a, Code 2016,  
21 is amended to read as follows:

22     a. (1) The individual envelopes used for each provisional  
23 ballot cast pursuant to [subsection 1](#) shall have space for the  
24 voter's name, date of birth, and address and shall have printed  
25 on them the following:

26     I am a United States citizen, at least eighteen years of age  
27 or, for purposes of voting in the primary election, I will  
28 be at least eighteen years of age on the date of the general  
29 election. I believe I am a registered voter of this county and  
30 I am eligible to vote in this election.

31 .....

32 (signature of voter) (date)

33     (2) The following information is to be provided by the  
34 precinct election official:

35 Reason for casting provisional ballot:

1 .....

2 .....

3

.....

4

(signature of precinct

5

election official)

6

EXPLANATION

7

The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

8

the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

9 This bill allows a registered voter who is not 18 years of  
10 age to vote in a primary election if the voter will be at least  
11 18 years of age on the date of the general election. Current  
12 law allows an eligible elector who is at least 17 and one-half  
13 years of age to register to vote, but, except for purposes of  
14 requesting and voting an absentee ballot, the registration does  
15 not become effective until the registrant turns 18 years of  
16 age.