

House File 2016 - Introduced

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BY HUNTER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act concerning the regulation of elections by establishing
2 requirements for election to public office, assessing
3 election costs to candidates, and affecting vote tabulations
4 for public referenda.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **39.28 Votes required for election.**

2 1. A candidate for public office shall not be elected to the
3 office who has not received a number of votes equal to at least
4 half the number of registered voters eligible to cast a ballot
5 for the office.

6 2. If no candidate for a public office receives the number
7 of votes required for election pursuant to subsection 1, a
8 runoff election shall be held between the two candidates for
9 the office who received the highest number of votes. The
10 candidate who receives the highest number of votes in the
11 runoff election shall be elected.

12 Sec. 2. Section 47.3, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2018, are
13 amended to read as follows:

14 1. The costs of conducting a special election called by
15 the governor, general election, and the primary election held
16 prior to the general election shall be paid proportionally,
17 as determined by the state commissioner of elections, by the
18 county each candidate or candidate's committee, as defined in
19 section 68A.102, included on the ballot.

20 2. The cost of conducting other elections shall be paid
21 by ~~the political subdivision for which the election is held~~
22 each candidate or candidate's committee, as defined in section
23 68A.102. The costs shall include but not be limited to the
24 printing of the ballots and the election register, publication
25 of notices, printing of declaration of eligibility affidavits,
26 compensation for precinct election boards, canvass materials,
27 and the preparation and installation of voting equipment. The
28 county commissioner of elections shall certify to the county
29 board of supervisors a statement of cost for an election. The
30 cost shall be assessed proportionally by the county board of
31 supervisors against ~~the political subdivision for which the~~
32 ~~election was held~~ each candidate or candidate's committee, as
33 defined in section 68A.102, included on the ballot.

34 Sec. 3. Section 47.3, Code 2018, is amended by adding the
35 following new subsection:

1 NEW SUBSECTION. 5. The costs of runoff elections shall be
2 paid by the candidates included on the ballot.

3 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 49A.12 Failure to vote tabulated as a
4 "no" vote.

5 When a public measure or constitutional amendment is
6 submitted to a general election pursuant to section 49A.4, a
7 constitutional amendment is submitted to a special election
8 pursuant to section 49A.5, or the question of holding a
9 constitutional convention is submitted to a general or special
10 election pursuant to Article X, section 3 of the Constitution
11 of the State of Iowa, a registered voter who does not cast
12 a ballot on the measure, amendment, or convention shall be
13 counted as having voted against the measure, amendment, or
14 convention.

15 EXPLANATION

16 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
17 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

18 This bill requires that a candidate for any public office
19 receive votes equal to at least half the number of registered
20 voters eligible to cast a ballot for that office in order to be
21 elected. If no candidate for an office meets this requirement,
22 the bill requires that a runoff election be held between the
23 two candidates who received the highest number of votes.

24 The bill requires candidates or their candidates' committees
25 to pay the costs of administering any elections in which
26 they participate. Any runoff elections must be paid for
27 by the candidates personally. The bill also requires that
28 any registered voter who does not cast a ballot on a public
29 measure, constitutional amendment, or constitutional convention
30 be counted as having voted against that measure, amendment, or
31 convention.