

Senate File 61 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 61
BY BISIGNANO

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to voter registration and voting by lowering
2 the age at which a person may register to vote and the age
3 at which a registered voter is eligible to vote in a primary
4 election and including effective date provisions.

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

1 Section 1. Section 48A.5, subsection 2, paragraph c, Code
2 2017, is amended to read as follows:

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

15 (2) A registrant who is at least seventeen ~~and one-half~~
16 years of age and who will be eighteen by the date of a pending
17 election is a registered voter for the pending election for
18 purposes of [chapter 53](#). For purposes of voting in a primary
19 election under chapter 43, a registrant who will be at least
20 eighteen years of age by the date of the respective general
21 election or city election is a registered voter for the pending
22 primary election.

23 Sec. 2. Section 48A.11, subsection 3, Code 2017, is amended
24 to read as follows:

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

28 [1] "Are you a citizen of the United States of America?"

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

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

1 general election.”

2 Sec. 3. Section 48A.14, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code
3 2017, is amended to read as follows:

4 b. The challenged registrant is less than seventeen and
5 ~~one-half~~ years of age.

6 Sec. 4. Section 48A.23, subsection 1, Code 2017, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 1. At least twice during each school year, the board of
9 directors of each school district operating a high school and
10 the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school
11 shall offer the opportunity to register to vote to each student
12 who is at least seventeen and ~~one-half~~ years of age.

13 Sec. 5. Section 48A.26, subsection 9, Code 2017, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 9. When a person who is at least seventeen and ~~one-half~~
16 years of age but less than eighteen years of age registers
17 to vote, the commissioner shall maintain a record of the
18 registration so as to clearly indicate that it will not take
19 effect until the registrant's eighteenth birthday and that the
20 person is registered and qualifies to vote at any election
21 held on or after that date. However, the commissioner shall
22 indicate that the person is registered and qualifies to vote
23 at the pending primary election if the person will be at least
24 eighteen years of age on the date of the respective general
25 election or city election.

26 Sec. 6. Section 48A.31, Code 2017, is amended to read as
27 follows:

28 **48A.31 Deceased persons record.**

29 The state registrar of vital statistics shall transmit
30 or cause to be transmitted to the state registrar of voters,
31 once each calendar quarter, a certified list of all persons
32 seventeen and ~~one-half~~ years of age and older in the state
33 whose deaths have been reported to the bureau of vital records
34 of the Iowa department of public health since the previous list
35 of decedents was certified to the state registrar of voters.

1 The list shall be submitted according to the specifications
2 of the state registrar of voters. The commissioner shall, in
3 the month following the end of a calendar quarter, run the
4 statewide voter registration system's matching program to
5 determine whether a listed decedent was registered to vote in
6 the county and shall immediately cancel the registration of any
7 person named on the list of decedents.

8 Sec. 7. Section 49.79, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code 2017,
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 b. The For an election other than a primary election, the
11 challenged person is less than eighteen years of age as of the
12 date of the election at which the person is offering to vote.
13 For a primary election, the challenged person will be less than
14 eighteen years of age on the date of the respective general
15 election or city election.

16 Sec. 8. Section 49.81, subsection 4, paragraph a, Code 2017,
17 is amended to read as follows:

18 a. (1) The individual envelopes used for each provisional
19 ballot cast pursuant to **subsection 1** shall have space for the
20 voter's name, date of birth, and address and shall have printed
21 on them the following:

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

28

29 (signature of voter) (date)

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

32 Reason for casting provisional ballot:

33

34

35

.....

1 (signature of precinct
2 election official)

3 Sec. 9. Section 280.9A, subsection 3, Code 2017, is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 3. At least twice during each school year, the board of
6 directors of each local public school district operating a
7 high school and the authorities in charge of each accredited
8 nonpublic school operating a high school shall offer the
9 opportunity to register to vote to each student who is at least
10 seventeen ~~and one-half~~ years of age, as required by section
11 48A.23.

12 Sec. 10. Section 602.8102, subsection 15, Code 2017, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 15. Monthly, notify the county commissioner of registration
15 and the state registrar of voters of persons seventeen ~~and~~
16 ~~one-half~~ years of age and older who have been convicted of a
17 felony during the preceding calendar month or persons who at
18 any time during the preceding calendar month have been legally
19 declared to be a person who is incompetent to vote as that term
20 is defined in [section 48A.2](#).

21 Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect January 1,
22 2018.

23 EXPLANATION

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

26 This bill relates to voter registration and voting.

27 Current law allows an eligible elector who is at least 17
28 and one-half years of age to register to vote, but, except
29 for purposes of requesting and voting an absentee ballot, the
30 registration does not become effective until the registrant
31 turns 18 years of age. The bill allows an otherwise eligible
32 elector to register to vote at the age of 17.

33 The bill also allows a registered voter who is not 18 years
34 of age to vote in a primary election if the voter will be at
35 least 18 years of age on the date of the respective general

1 election or city election.

2 The bill makes additional conforming changes.

3 The bill takes effect January 1, 2018.