

**House Study Bill 168 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
STATE GOVERNMENT BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON KAUFMANN)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to the closing time of polling places.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 49.73, subsection 2, Code 2019, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. The commissioner shall not shorten voting hours for any  
4 election if there is filed in the commissioner's office, at  
5 least twenty-five days before the election, a petition signed  
6 by at least fifty eligible electors of the school district  
7 or city, as the case may be, requesting that the polls be  
8 opened not later than 7:00 a.m. All polling places where the  
9 candidates of or any public question submitted by any one  
10 political subdivision are being voted upon shall be opened at  
11 the same hour, except that this requirement shall not apply  
12 to merged areas established under [chapter 260C](#). The hours at  
13 which the respective precinct polling places are to open shall  
14 not be changed after publication of the notice required by  
15 section 49.53. The polling places shall be closed at ~~9:00 p.m.~~  
16 ~~for state primary and general elections and other partisan~~  
17 ~~elections, and for any other election held concurrently~~  
18 ~~therewith, and at 8:00 p.m. for all other elections.~~

19 EXPLANATION

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

22 This bill changes the closing time of polls to 8:00 p.m. for  
23 all elections. Under current law, polling places close at 9:00  
24 p.m. for state primary and general elections, other partisan  
25 elections, and any other election held concurrently with such  
26 elections.