

**House File 2373 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2373

BY ANDREWS

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the conduct of elections, and making  
2 penalties applicable.

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

1 Section 1. Section 1C.1, Code 2024, is amended by adding the  
2 following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 7A. Election Day, the first Tuesday after  
4 the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year.

5 Sec. 2. Section 1C.2, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended by  
6 adding the following new paragraph:

7 NEW PARAGRAPH. *Of.* Election Day, the first Tuesday after  
8 the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year.

9 Sec. 3. Section 49.57, Code 2024, is amended by adding the  
10 following new subsection:

11 NEW SUBSECTION. 8. They shall include a unique code  
12 or other identifier to distinguish genuine ballots from  
13 counterfeit ballots. Notwithstanding any provision of law to  
14 the contrary, a ballot that does not include a unique code or  
15 other identifier that has not been previously included on a  
16 cast ballot shall not be counted.

17 Sec. 4. Section 53.1, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended  
18 to read as follows:

19 1. Any registered voter may, subject to the provisions of  
20 this chapter, vote at any election:

21 a. When the voter ~~expects to~~ will be absent on election day  
22 during the time the polls are open from the precinct in which  
23 the voter is a registered voter due to a responsibility related  
24 to the person's employment.

25 b. When, through illness, age, or physical disability, the  
26 voter ~~expects to~~ will be prevented from going to the polls and  
27 voting on election day.

28 c. When the voter expects to be unable to go to the polls  
29 and vote on election day because the voter is a member of the  
30 military.

31 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 68A.507 Contributions from  
32 out-of-state sources — limitations.

33 1. A candidate or candidate's committee shall not accept  
34 contributions of greater than one dollar from a person not  
35 living in or incorporated or organized under the laws of this

1 state.

2 2. The general assembly recognizes that persons who are not  
3 residents of Iowa have the right to free speech under the first  
4 amendment to the Constitution of the United States and may have  
5 a passing interest in elections in this state. However, the  
6 general assembly finds that it is in the best interest of the  
7 residents of Iowa for elections in this state to be influenced  
8 and funded by residents of Iowa.

9 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 68A.508 Contribution limits for  
10 candidates.

11 1. For the purposes of this section, "*election campaign*  
12 *cycle*" means the time period between elections for a particular  
13 office. Each primary, general, and special election is a  
14 separate election campaign cycle. Separate contribution limits  
15 for each type of election for a particular office, including  
16 primary, general, and special elections, apply in an election  
17 campaign cycle.

18 2. A person shall not make, and a candidate, candidate's  
19 committee, or anyone acting on behalf of any candidate or  
20 candidate's committee shall not accept, any contribution which  
21 will cause the total amount of the person's contributions to  
22 a candidate or candidate's committee to exceed one hundred  
23 dollars.

24 3. This section applies to candidates for any public office  
25 in this state.

26 EXPLANATION

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

29 This bill relates to the conduct of elections.

30 The bill makes the day of the general election, the  
31 first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each  
32 even-numbered year, a legal public holiday. The bill also  
33 makes election day a paid holiday for state employees.

34 The bill requires that each ballot include a unique code  
35 or other identifier to distinguish genuine ballots from

1 counterfeit ballots. The bill prohibits a ballot from  
2 being counted if it does not include a unique code or other  
3 identifier that has not been previously included on a cast  
4 ballot.

5 The bill alters the groups of voters who may cast an absentee  
6 ballot. The bill allows a voter to cast an absentee ballot  
7 only if the voter will be absent on election day during the  
8 time the polls are open from the precinct in which the voter  
9 is a registered voter due to a responsibility related to the  
10 person's employment; the voter will be prevented from going to  
11 the polls and voting on election day due to illness, age, or  
12 physical disability; or the voter expects to be unable to go  
13 to the polls and vote on election day because the voter is a  
14 member of the military.

15 The bill prohibits a candidate for public office or  
16 a candidate's committee from accepting contributions of  
17 greater than \$1 from a person not living in or incorporated  
18 or organized under the laws of this state. The bill states  
19 the general assembly's recognition that persons who are not  
20 residents of Iowa have the right to free speech under the  
21 first amendment to the Constitution of the United States and  
22 may have a passing interest in elections in Iowa but that the  
23 general assembly finds that it is in the best interest of the  
24 residents of Iowa for elections in Iowa to be influenced and  
25 funded by residents of Iowa. By operation of law, a person who  
26 willfully violates this provision of the bill is guilty of a  
27 serious misdemeanor. A serious misdemeanor is punishable by  
28 confinement for no more than one year and a fine of at least  
29 \$430 but not more than \$2,560.

30 The bill imposes campaign contribution limits on candidates  
31 for public office. In an election campaign cycle, a person  
32 shall not contribute to a candidate, and the candidate shall  
33 not accept, more than \$100. A person who willfully makes or  
34 accepts a contribution in violation of this provision of the  
35 bill is, pursuant to Code section 68A.701, guilty of a serious

1 misdemeanor.

2 A variety of civil remedies are also available in Code  
3 section 68B.32D for a violation of the bill relating to  
4 campaign finance, ranging from a reprimand to a civil penalty  
5 of not more than \$2,000.