

House File 557 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 557
BY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 289)

(COMPANION TO SF 433 BY
GARRETT)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to conducting elections for benefited
2 recreational lake and water quality districts.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 357E.8, Code 2023, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **357E.8 Election on proposed levy and candidates for trustees.**

4 When a preliminary plat has been approved by the board,
5 an election shall be held within the district within sixty
6 days to approve or disapprove the levy of a tax of not more
7 than four dollars per thousand dollars of assessed value on
8 all the taxable property within the benefited recreational
9 lake district except property assessed as agricultural land,
10 and to choose candidates for the offices of trustees of the
11 district. However, for a water quality district, the tax levy
12 shall not exceed twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of
13 assessed value on all taxable property within the district
14 and must be renewed by a similar election every eight years.
15 The tax levy for a combined district shall not exceed four
16 dollars per thousand dollars of assessed value on all of the
17 taxable property within the district. A tax levy approved for
18 the purposes of [this chapter](#) shall not be levied on property
19 assessed as agricultural land. Notice of the election,
20 including the time and place of holding the election, shall
21 be given as provided in [section 357E.4](#). The vote shall be by
22 ballot, which shall state clearly the proposition to be voted
23 upon, and any registered voter residing within the district at
24 the time of the election may vote. ~~It is not mandatory for the~~
25 ~~The~~ county commissioner of elections ~~to~~ shall conduct elections
26 held pursuant to [this chapter](#), ~~but~~ and the elections shall be
27 conducted in accordance with [chapter 49](#) when not in conflict
28 with [this chapter](#). ~~Judges shall be appointed by the board from~~
29 ~~among the registered voters of the district to be in charge of~~
30 ~~the election. The judges are not entitled to receive pay. The~~
31 proposition is approved if a majority of those voting on the
32 proposition vote in favor of it.

33

EXPLANATION

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

1 This bill relates to conducting elections for benefited
2 recreational lake and water quality districts. Code chapter
3 357E requires elections for a proposed tax levy upon the
4 establishment of a benefited recreational lake district, water
5 quality district, or combined district; for the selection of
6 trustees of the district; and for incurring an indebtedness.
7 Current law states that an election under Code chapter 357E
8 does not need to be conducted by the county commissioner of
9 elections and that judges shall be appointed by the county
10 board of supervisors from among the registered voters of the
11 district to be in charge of the election. The bill requires
12 the county commissioner of elections to conduct elections held
13 pursuant to Code chapter 357E and removes judges from the
14 election process.