

**Senate File 487 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 487  
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE  
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 330)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to special elections to fill vacancies in  
2 county boards of supervisors and city elective offices, and  
3 including applicability provisions.

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

1 Section 1. Section 331.306, subsection 1, Code 2023, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. a. If a petition of the voters is authorized by this  
4 chapter, the petition is valid if signed by eligible electors  
5 of the county equal in number to at least ten percent of the  
6 votes cast in the county for the office of president of the  
7 United States or governor at the preceding general election,  
8 unless otherwise provided by state law, and except as provided  
9 in paragraph "b". The petition shall include the signatures of  
10 the petitioners, a statement of their place of residence, and  
11 the date on which they signed the petition.

12 b. A petition to fill a vacancy in the office of county  
13 supervisor by a special election filed pursuant to section  
14 69.14A, subsection 1, must be signed by eligible electors of  
15 the county equal in number to at least two percent of the  
16 votes cast in the county for the office of president of the  
17 United States or governor at the preceding general election or  
18 the number of signatures required for nomination of a county  
19 supervisor pursuant to section 45.1, whichever is greater.

20 Sec. 2. Section 372.13, subsection 2, paragraph a,  
21 subparagraph (2), subparagraph divisions (a), (b), and (c),  
22 Code 2023, are amended to read as follows:

23 (a) For a city with a population of ten thousand or less,  
24 at least two hundred signatures or at least the number of  
25 signatures equal to ~~fifteen~~ two percent of the voters who voted  
26 for candidates for the office at the preceding regular election  
27 at which the office was on the ballot, whichever number is  
28 fewer.

29 (b) For a city with a population of more than ten thousand  
30 but not more than fifty thousand, at least one thousand  
31 signatures or at least the number of signatures equal to  
32 ~~fifteen~~ two percent of the voters who voted for candidates  
33 for the office at the preceding regular election at which the  
34 office was on the ballot, whichever number is fewer.

35 (c) For a city with a population of more than fifty

1 thousand, at least two thousand signatures or at least the  
2 number of signatures equal to ~~ten~~ two percent of the voters who  
3 voted for candidates for the office at the preceding regular  
4 election at which the office was on the ballot, whichever  
5 number is fewer.

6 Sec. 3. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to vacancies in  
7 county boards of supervisors and city elective offices arising  
8 on or after the effective date of this Act.

9 EXPLANATION

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

12 This bill relates to special elections to fill vacancies in  
13 county boards of supervisors and elective city offices. The  
14 bill changes the number of signatures required on a petition to  
15 fill a vacancy in the office of county supervisor by a special  
16 election from 10 percent of the votes cast in the county  
17 for office of president or governor at the preceding general  
18 election to 2 percent or the number of signatures required for  
19 nomination of a county supervisor, whichever is greater. The  
20 bill also changes the signature requirements for a petition to  
21 fill a vacancy in an elective city office to 2 percent of the  
22 voters who voted for candidates for the office at the preceding  
23 regular election at which the office was on the ballot. The  
24 bill does not change alternate minimum signature requirements  
25 based on city size.

26 The bill applies to vacancies in county boards of  
27 supervisors and city elective offices arising on or after the  
28 effective date of the bill.