

House File 160 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 160
BY GOLDING

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the casting of provisional ballots by persons
2 registering to vote on election day or when casting an
3 in-person absentee ballot.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 48A.7A, subsection 5, Code 2025, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 5. ~~a. If a person registers to vote under this section at~~
4 ~~a polling place that has access to an electronic poll book,~~
5 ~~the precinct election official shall verify against a database~~
6 ~~maintained by the state commissioner that the person has not been~~
7 ~~convicted of a felony or, if the person has been convicted of a~~
8 ~~felony, the person has had the person's voting rights restored.~~
9 ~~If the precinct election official determines that the person has~~
10 ~~not been convicted of a felony or has been convicted of a felony~~
11 ~~but the person's voting rights have been restored, the precinct~~
12 ~~election official shall furnish a ballot to the voter. If the~~
13 ~~database indicates that the person has been convicted of a felony~~
14 ~~and that the person's voting rights have not been restored,~~
15 ~~the precinct election official shall challenge the person under~~
16 ~~section 49.79.~~

17 b. If a A person who registers to vote under this section
18 at a polling place that does not have access to an electronic
19 poll book, the person shall be permitted to cast a provisional
20 ballot under section 49.81, and the absentee and special voters
21 precinct board, appointed pursuant to section 53.23, shall verify
22 against a database maintained by the state commissioner that the
23 person has not been convicted of a felony or, if the person
24 has been convicted of a felony, the person's voting rights have
25 been restored. If information in the database indicates that the
26 person has not been convicted of a felony or, if the person has
27 been convicted of a felony, the person's voting rights have been
28 restored, the voter's provisional ballot shall be counted. If
29 the database indicates that the person has been convicted of a
30 felony and the person's voting rights have not been restored, the
31 voter's provisional ballot shall be rejected.

32 EXPLANATION

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

35 This bill requires a person registering to vote on election

1 day or when casting an in-person absentee ballot to cast a
2 provisional ballot. The absentee and special voters precinct
3 board shall then count the provisional ballot only if the board
4 determines that the voter was eligible to vote. Under current
5 law, a person registering to vote on election day or when casting
6 an in-person absentee ballot may cast a regular ballot if the
7 polling place can verify the voter's eligibility to vote using an
8 electronic poll book.

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