

House File 507 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 507
BY ANDREWS

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the conduct of elections, and making penalties
- 2 applicable.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 1C.1, Code 2025, 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 2025, is amended by
6 adding the following new paragraph:

7 NEW PARAGRAPH. 0f. Election Day, the first Tuesday after the
8 first Monday in November of each even-numbered year.

9 Sec. 3. Section 49.57, Code 2025, is amended by adding the
10 following new subsection:

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

17 Sec. 4. Section 53.1, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended to
18 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 the
23 voter is a registered voter due to a responsibility related to
24 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 living
35 in or incorporated or organized under the laws of this state.

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

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

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

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

22 3. This section applies to candidates for any public office
23 in this state.

24 EXPLANATION

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

27 This bill relates to the conduct of elections.

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

32 The bill requires that each ballot include a unique code or
33 other identifier to distinguish genuine ballots from counterfeit
34 ballots. The bill prohibits a ballot from being counted if it
35 does not include a unique code or other identifier that has not

1 been previously included on a cast ballot.

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

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

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

33 A variety of civil remedies are also available in Code section
34 68B.32D for a violation of the bill relating to campaign finance,
35 ranging from a reprimand to a civil penalty of not more than

1 \$2,000.

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