

House File 595 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 595

BY THOMSON

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to eligibility to vote in a primary election or
- 2 caucus.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 43.38, Code 2025, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **43.38 Voter confined to party ticket.**

4 The elector shall be allowed to vote for candidates for
5 nomination on the ballot of the party with which the elector ~~is~~
6 has been registered as affiliated for the one hundred twenty days
7 immediately preceding the primary election, and shall receive no
8 other ballot. The voter shall mark and return the ballot in the
9 manner provided in section 49.84.

10 Sec. 2. Section 43.43, Code 2025, is amended to read as
11 follows:

12 **43.43 Voter's declaration of eligibility.**

13 Each person voting at a primary election shall sign a
14 declaration of eligibility which shall be in substantially the
15 following form:

16 I do solemnly swear or affirm that I am a resident
17 of the precinct, ward or township, city
18 of, county of, Iowa.

19 I am a registered voter. I have not voted and will not vote in
20 any other precinct in this election.

21 I am affiliated with the party. If my current voter
22 registration record indicates another party affiliation or no
23 party affiliation, I swear or affirm that I have in good faith
24 changed my previously declared party affiliation, or declared my
25 party affiliation, not later than one hundred twenty days before
26 this primary election, and now desire to be a member of the party
27 indicated above.

28 _____
29 Signature of voter

30 _____
31 Address

32 _____
33 Telephone (optional)

34 Approved:
35 _____

1 Election board member
 2
 3 Date

4 Sec. 3. Section 43.91, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended to
 5 read as follows:

6 1. Any person voting at a precinct caucus must be a person
 7 who is or will by the date of the next general election become
 8 an eligible elector, who has not already participated in the
 9 caucus of any political party within the same year, ~~and~~ who is
 10 a resident of the precinct, and who has been a registered member
 11 of the political party holding the precinct caucus for the one
 12 hundred twenty days immediately preceding the precinct caucus. A
 13 list of the names and addresses of each person to whom a ballot
 14 was delivered or who was allowed to vote in each precinct caucus
 15 shall be prepared by the caucus chairperson and secretary who
 16 shall certify such list to the commissioner at the same time
 17 as the names of those elected as delegates and party committee
 18 members are so certified.

19 Sec. 4. Section 53.2, subsection 6, Code 2025, is amended by
 20 striking the subsection.

21 Sec. 5. REPEAL. Section 43.42, Code 2025, is repealed.

22 EXPLANATION

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

25 This bill requires a person to have been registered as
 26 a member of a political party for the 120 days immediately
 27 preceding a primary election or caucus held by the political
 28 party in order to be allowed to vote in that primary election or
 29 caucus. The bill repeals provisions allowing a registered voter
 30 to change or declare a political party affiliation on the day of
 31 a primary election or by submitting an absentee ballot request
 32 form.