

**Senate File 158 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 158  
BY SALMON

**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. ~~α. 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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