

“The writing of such name without making a cross opposite thereto, or the making a cross opposite such blank without writing a name therein, or the unnecessary marking of a cross in a square below a marked circle, shall not affect the validity of his vote.”

Approved April 7, 1900.

CHAPTER 37.

VOTING MACHINES.

H. F. 304.

AN ACT to provide for the greater purity of elections, for the casting, registering, recording, and counting of ballots or votes by means of voting machines, and supplementary to, and in aid of, the present election laws. Also creating a board of voting machine commissioners and defining their duties, and repealing all laws in conflict with this act. [Additional to chapter 3, title VI, of the code, relating to elections]

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. Use of voting machines authorized. That at all state, county, city, town, and township elections, hereafter held in the state of Iowa, ballots or votes may be cast, registered, recorded, and counted by means of voting machines, as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 2. Board of supervisors to purchase, etc. Hereafter the board of county supervisors of any county, or the council of any incorporated city or town, in the state of Iowa may, by a two-thirds vote, authorize, purchase, and order the use of voting machines in any one or more voting precincts within said county, city, or town, until otherwise ordered by said board of county supervisors or city or town council.

SEC. 3. Commissioners—term—removal. Within thirty days after this act goes into effect, the governor shall appoint three commissioners and not more than two of whom shall be from the same political party. The said commissioners shall hold office for the term of five years, subject to removal at the pleasure of the governor.

SEC. 4. Examination of machine—report of commissioners—compensation. Any person or corporation owning or being interested in any voting machine may call upon the said commissioners to examine the said machine, and make report to the secretary of state upon the capacity of the said machine to register the will of voters, its accuracy and efficiency, and with respect to its mechanical perfections and imperfections. Their report shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state and shall state whether in their opinion the kind of machine so examined can be safely used by such voters at elections under the conditions prescribed in this act. If the report states that the machine can be so used, it shall be deemed approved by the commissioners, and machines of its kind may be adopted for use at elections as herein provided. Any form of voting machine not so approved cannot be used at any election. Each commissioner is entitled to one hundred and fifty dollars for his compensation and expenses in making such examination and report, to be paid by the person or corporation applying for such examination. No commissioner shall have any interest whatever in any machine reported upon. Provided, that said commissioner shall not receive to exceed fifteen hundred dollars and reasonable expenses in any one year; and all sums collected for such examinations over and above said maximum salaries and expenses shall be turned into the state treasury.

SEC. 5. Provisions as to construction of machine approved. A voting machine approved by the state board of voting machine commissioners, must be so constructed as to provide facilities for voting for the candidates of at least seven different parties or organizations, must permit a voter to vote for any person for any office although not nominated as a candidate by any party or organization, and must permit voting in absolute

secrecy. It must also be so constructed as to prevent voting for more than one person for the same office, except where the voter is lawfully entitled to vote for more than one person for that office; and it must afford him an opportunity to vote for any or all persons for that office as he is by law entitled to vote for and no more, at the same time preventing his voting for the same person twice. It may also be provided with one ballot in each party column or row containing only the words "presidential electors" preceded by the party name, and a vote for such ballot shall operate as a vote for all the candidates of such party for presidential electors. Such machine shall be so constructed as to accurately account for every vote cast upon it.

SEC. 6. Experimental use. The board of supervisors of any county, the council of any city or town, may provide for the experimental use at an election in one or more districts, of a machine which it might lawfully adopt, without a formal adoption thereof; and its use at such election shall be as valid for all purposes as if it had been lawfully adopted.

SEC. 7. Duties of local authorities. The local authorities adopting a voting machine shall, as soon as practical thereafter, provide for each polling place one or more voting machines in complete working order, and shall thereafter keep them in repair, and shall have the custody thereof and of the furniture and equipment of the polling place when not in use at an election. If it shall be impracticable to supply each and every election district with a voting machine or voting machines at any election following such adoption, as many may be supplied as it is practicable to procure, and the same may be used in such election district or districts within the county, city, or town as the officers adopting the same may direct.

SEC. 8. Bonds, certificates of indebtedness, etc. The local authorities, on the adoption and purchase of a voting machine, may provide for the payment therefor in such manner as they may deem for the best interest of the locality, and may for that purpose issue bonds, certificates of indebtedness, or other obligations which shall be a charge on the county, city, or town. Such bonds, certificates, or other obligations may be issued with or without interest, payable at such time or times as the authorities may determine, but shall not be issued or sold at less than par.

SEC. 9. Ballots—form. All ballots shall be printed in black ink on clear, white material, of such size as will fit the ballot frame, and in plain, clear type as the space will reasonably permit. The party name for each political party represented on the machine shall be prefixed to the list of candidates of such party. The order of the list of candidates of the several parties or organizations shall be arranged as provided in section eleven hundred and six (1106) of the code, except that the lists may be arranged in horizontal rows or vertical columns.

SEC. 10. Sample ballots. The officers or board charged with the duty of providing ballots for any polling-place shall provide therefor two sample ballots, which shall be arranged in the form of a diagram showing the entire front of the voting machine as it will appear after the official ballots are arranged for voting on election day. Such sample ballots shall be open to public inspection at such polling-place during the day of election and the day next preceding election day.

SEC. 11. Two sets of ballots. Two sets of ballots shall be provided for each polling place for each election for use in the voting machine.

SEC. 12. Delivery of ballots. The ballots and stationery shall be delivered to the election board of each election district before ten o'clock in the forenoon of the day next preceding the election.

SEC. 13. Duties of election officers—-independent ballots. The judges of election and clerks of each district shall meet at the polling place therein, at least three-quarters of an hour before the time set for the opening of the polls at each election, and shall proceed to arrange within the guard-rail the furniture, stationery, and voting machines for the conduct of

the election. The judges of election shall then and there have the voting machine, ballots, and stationery required to be delivered to them for such election; and, if it be an election at which registered voters only can vote, the registry of such electors required to be made and kept therefor. The judges shall thereupon cause at least two instruction cards to be posted conspicuously within the polling-place. If not previously done, they shall arrange, in their proper place on the voting machine, the ballots containing the names of the offices to be filled at such election, and the names of the candidates nominated therefor. If not previously done, the machine shall be so arranged as to show that no vote has been cast, and the same shall not be thereafter operated, except by electors in voting. Before the polls are open for election, each judge shall carefully examine every machine and see that no vote has been cast, and the same shall be subject to inspection of the election officers. Ballots voted for any person, whose name does not appear on the machine as a nominated candidate for office, are herein referred to as independent ballots. Where two or more persons are to be elected to the same office, and the machine requires that all independent ballots voted for that office be deposited in a single receptacle or device, an elector may vote in or by such receptacle or device for one or more persons whose names do not appear upon the machine with or without the names of one or more persons whose names do so appear. With that exception, and except for presidential electors, no independent ballot shall be voted for any person for any office whose name appears on the machine as a nominated candidate for that office; any independent ballot so voted shall not be counted. An independent ballot must be cast in its appropriate place on the machine, or it shall be void and not counted.

SEC. 14. Voting machine in plain view—guard-rail. The exterior of the voting machine and every part of the polling-place shall be in plain view of the election officers. The voting machine shall be placed at least three feet from every wall and partition of the polling-place, and at least three feet from the guard-rail, and at least four feet from the clerk's table. A guard-rail shall be constructed at least three feet from the machine, with openings to admit electors to and from the machine.

SEC. 15. Method of voting. After the openings of the polls, the judges shall not allow any voter to pass within the guard-rail until they ascertain that he is duly entitled to vote. Only one voter at a time shall be permitted to pass within the guard-rail to vote. The operating of the voting machine by the elector while voting shall be secret and obscured from all other persons except as provided by this chapter in cases of voting by assisted electors. No voter shall remain within the voting machine booth longer than one minute, and if he shall refuse to leave it after the lapse of one minute, he shall be removed by the judges.

SEC. 16. Additional instructions. In case any elector after entering the voting machine booth shall ask for further instructions concerning the manner of voting, two judges of opposite political parties shall give such instructions to him; but no judge or other election officer or person assisting an elector shall in any manner request, suggest, or seek to persuade or induce any such elector to vote any particular ticket, or for any particular candidate, or for or against any particular amendment, question, or proposition. After receiving such instructions, such elector shall vote as in the case of an unassisted voter.

SEC. 17. Injury to the machine. No voter, or other person, shall deface or injure the voting machine or the ballot thereon. It shall be the duty of the judges to enforce the provisions of this section. During the entire period of an election, at least one of their number, designated by them from time to time, shall be stationed beside the entrance to the booth and shall see that it is properly closed after a voter has entered it to vote. He shall also, at such intervals as he may deem proper or necessary,

examine the face of the machine to ascertain whether it has been defaced, or injured, to detect the wrong-doer and to repair any injury.

SEC. 18. Canvass of vote. As soon as the polls of the election are closed, the judges of the election thereat shall immediately lock the voting machine against voting and open the counting compartments in the presence of all persons who may be lawfully within the polling place, and proceed to canvass the vote.

SEC. 19. Judges to lock machine. The judges of election shall, as soon as the count is completed and fully ascertained as in this act required, lock the machine against voting, and it shall so remain for the period of thirty days. Whenever independent ballots have been voted, the judges shall return all of such ballots properly secured in a sealed package as prescribed by section eleven hundred and forty-two (1142) of the code.

SEC. 20. Written statements of election. After the total vote for each candidate has been ascertained, and before leaving the room or voting place, the judges shall make and sign written statements of election, as required by the election laws now in force, except that such statements of the canvass need not contain any ballots except the independent ballots as herein provided.

SEC. 21. What statutes apply. All of the provisions of the election law now in force and not inconsistent with the provisions of this act shall apply with full force to all counties, cities, and towns adopting the use of voting machines. Nothing in this act shall be construed as prohibiting the use of a separate ballot for constitutional amendments and other public measures.

Approved April 16, 1900.

CHAPTER 38.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

S. F. 30.

AN ACT to amend section eleven hundred and seventy-three (1173) of the code, relating to the election of presidential electors.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. Elected by the electors of the state. That section eleven hundred and seventy-three (1173) of the code be and the same is hereby amended, by inserting after the word "elected" in the third line thereof, the words, "by the electors of the state."

Approved March 15, 1900.

CHAPTER 39.

RELATING TO APPEALS IN CERTAIN CASES.

S. F. 123.

AN ACT to amend section twelve hundred and twenty-two (1222) of the code, relating to appeals in certain cases.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. Appeal in contest election cases. That section twelve hundred and twenty-two (1222) of the code be, and the same is, hereby amended by adding to said section the following words, to-wit: "The court shall hear the appeal in equity and determine anew all questions arising in the case."

SEC. 2. In effect. This act, being deemed of immediate importance, shall be in force from and after its publication in the Iowa State Register and the Des Moines Leader, newspapers published in Des Moines, Iowa.

Approved February 24, 1900.