

A bill for an act
relating to elections; requiring certain notices concerning voting rights of
felons; requiring an informational publication; proposing coding for new law in
Minnesota Statutes, chapters 201; 243; 630.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **[201.280] DUTIES OF SECRETARY OF STATE; INFORMATION
ABOUT VOTING RIGHTS.**

The secretary of state shall develop accurate and complete information in a single
publication about the voting rights of people who have been charged with or convicted
of a crime. This publication must be made available electronically to the state court
administrator for distribution to judges, court personnel, probation officers, and the
Department of Corrections for distribution to corrections officials, parole officers, and
the public.

Sec. 2. **[243.205] NOTICE OF RESTORATION OF RIGHT TO VOTE.**

Subdivision 1. **Correctional facilities; designation of official.** The chief executive
officer of each state and local correctional facility shall designate an official within the
facility to provide the notice and application required under this section to inmates who
have been restored to civil rights. The official shall maintain an adequate supply of voter
registration applications and informational materials for this purpose.

Subd. 2. **Notice requirement.** A notice of restoration of civil rights and a voter
registration application must be provided as follows:

(1) the chief executive officer of each state and local correctional facility shall
provide the notice and application to an inmate being released from the facility following

incarceration for a felony-level offense if the inmate's sentence is discharged and civil rights restored under section 609.165; and

(2) a probation officer or supervised release agent shall provide the notice and application when an individual under correctional supervision for a felony-level offense is discharged from sentence and the individual's civil rights have been restored under section 609.165.

Subd. 3. **Form of notice.** The notice required by subdivision 2 must appear substantially as follows:

**"NOTICE OF RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS, INCLUDING
YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE.**

Your final discharge today means that your civil rights have been restored. This includes a restoration of your right to vote in Minnesota. Before you can vote on election day, you still need to register to vote. To register, you can complete a voter registration application and return it to the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State. You also can register to vote in your polling place on election day. You will not be permitted to cast a ballot until you register to vote. The first time you appear at your polling place to cast a ballot, you may be required to provide proof of your current residence."

Subd. 4. **Failure to provide notice.** A failure to provide proper notice as required by this section does not prevent the restoration of an inmate's civil rights upon discharge.

**Sec. 3. [630.125] DEFENDANT; NOTICE OF LOSS OF CIVIL RIGHTS UPON
CONVICTION.**

For felony-level offenses, at the time of arraignment, prior to the court's acceptance of a plea from the defendant, the court must notify the defendant that a guilty plea or conviction for a felony-level offense will result in a loss of the defendant's civil rights, including the right to vote, until the defendant's sentence has been discharged.