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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1288

03/02/2015 Authored by Kahn, Metsa, Newton and Schultz

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Elections Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to elections; permitting individuals who are at least 16 years of age  
1.3 to register to vote; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 201.054,  
1.4 subdivisions 1, 2; 201.061, subdivision 1; 201.071, subdivision 1; 201.091,  
1.5 subdivision 4.

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

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 201.054, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Registration.** (a) An individual may register to vote:

1.9 (1) at any time before the 20th day preceding any election as provided in section  
1.10 201.061, subdivision 1;

1.11 (2) on the day of an election as provided in section 201.061, subdivision 3; or

1.12 (3) when submitting an absentee ballot, by enclosing a completed registration  
1.13 application as provided in section 203B.04, subdivision 4.

1.14 (b) An individual who is under the age of 18, but who is at least 16 years of age and  
1.15 otherwise eligible, may register to vote as provided in section 201.061, subdivision 1.

1.16 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 201.054, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.17 Subd. 2. **Prohibitions; penalty.** No individual shall intentionally:

1.18 (a) cause or attempt to cause the individual's name to be registered in any precinct if  
1.19 the individual is not eligible to vote, except as permitted by section 201.061, subdivision 1;

1.20 (b) cause or attempt to cause the individual's name to be registered for the purpose of  
1.21 voting in more than one precinct;

1.22 (c) misrepresent the individual's identity when attempting to register to vote; or

1.23 (d) aid, abet, counsel, or procure any other individual to violate this subdivision.

1.24 A violation of this subdivision is a felony.

2.1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 201.061, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

2.2 Subdivision 1. **Prior to election day.** (a) At any time except during the 20  
2.3 days immediately preceding any regularly scheduled election, an eligible voter ~~or~~, any  
2.4 individual who will be an eligible voter at the time of the next election, or any individual  
2.5 who is under the age of 18, but who is at least 16 years of age and meets all requirements for  
2.6 eligibility contained in section 201.014 except for age, may register to vote in the precinct  
2.7 in which the voter maintains residence by completing a voter registration application as  
2.8 described in section 201.071, subdivision 1. A completed application may be submitted:

2.9 (1) in person or by mail to the county auditor of that county or to the Secretary  
2.10 of State's Office; or

2.11 (2) electronically through a secure Web site that shall be maintained by the secretary  
2.12 of state for this purpose, if the applicant has an e-mail address and provides the applicant's  
2.13 verifiable Minnesota driver's license number, Minnesota state identification card number,  
2.14 or the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number.

2.15 A registration that is received in person or by mail no later than 5:00 p.m. on the  
2.16 21st day preceding any election, or a registration received electronically through the  
2.17 secretary of state's secure Web site no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 21st day preceding any  
2.18 election, shall be accepted. An improperly addressed or delivered registration application  
2.19 shall be forwarded within two working days after receipt to the county auditor of the  
2.20 county where the voter maintains residence. A state or local agency or an individual that  
2.21 accepts completed voter registration applications from a voter must submit the completed  
2.22 applications to the secretary of state or the appropriate county auditor within ten calendar  
2.23 days after the applications are dated by the voter.

2.24 (b) An application submitted electronically under paragraph (a), clause (2), may only  
2.25 be transmitted to the county auditor for processing if the secretary of state has verified the  
2.26 application information matches the information in a government database associated with  
2.27 the applicant's driver's license number, state identification card number, or Social Security  
2.28 number. The secretary of state must review all unverifiable voter registration applications  
2.29 submitted electronically for evidence of suspicious activity and must forward any such  
2.30 application to an appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation.

2.31 An individual may not electronically submit a voter registration application on  
2.32 behalf of any other individual.

2.33 (c) For purposes of this section, mail registration is defined as a voter registration  
2.34 application delivered to the secretary of state, county auditor, or municipal clerk by the  
2.35 United States Postal Service or a commercial carrier.

3.1 Nothing in this section shall be construed to entitle an individual to cast a ballot at an  
 3.2 election if the individual does not meet all eligibility requirements for voting, including age.

3.3 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 201.071, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

3.4 Subdivision 1. **Form.** Both paper and electronic voter registration applications must  
 3.5 contain the same information unless otherwise provided by law. A voter registration  
 3.6 application must contain spaces for the following required information: voter's first name,  
 3.7 middle name, and last name; voter's previous name, if any; voter's current address; voter's  
 3.8 previous address, if any; voter's date of birth; voter's municipality and county of residence;  
 3.9 voter's telephone number, if provided by the voter; date of registration; current and valid  
 3.10 Minnesota driver's license number or Minnesota state identification number, or if the voter  
 3.11 has no current and valid Minnesota driver's license or Minnesota state identification, the  
 3.12 last four digits of the voter's Social Security number; and voter's signature. The paper  
 3.13 registration application may include the voter's e-mail address, if provided by the voter.  
 3.14 The electronic voter registration application must include the voter's e-mail address. The  
 3.15 registration application may include the voter's interest in serving as an election judge,  
 3.16 if indicated by the voter. The application must also contain the following certification  
 3.17 of voter eligibility:

3.18 "I certify that I:

3.19 (1) will be at least 18 years old ~~on election day~~ on the day of any election at which I  
 3.20 intend to vote;

3.21 (2) am a citizen of the United States;

3.22 (3) will have resided in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding election day;

3.23 (4) maintain residence at the address given on the registration form;

3.24 (5) am not under court-ordered guardianship in which the court order revokes my  
 3.25 right to vote;

3.26 (6) have not been found by a court to be legally incompetent to vote;

3.27 (7) have the right to vote because, if I have been convicted of a felony, my felony  
 3.28 sentence has expired (been completed) or I have been discharged from my sentence; and

3.29 (8) have read and understand the following statement: that giving false information  
 3.30 is a felony punishable by not more than five years imprisonment or a fine of not more  
 3.31 than \$10,000, or both."

3.32 The certification must include boxes for the voter to respond to the following  
 3.33 questions:

3.34 "(1) Are you a citizen of the United States?" ~~and~~

3.35 "(2) Will you be 18 years old on or before election day?" and

4.1 "(3) Are you at least 16 years of age and do you understand that you must be at least  
4.2 18 years of age on or before election day to vote?"

4.3 And the instruction:

4.4 "If you checked 'no' to ~~either of these questions~~ question one or 'no' to BOTH  
4.5 questions two and three, do not complete this form."

4.6 A paper voter registration application must be of suitable size and weight for  
4.7 mailing. The form of the voter registration application and the certification of voter  
4.8 eligibility must be as provided in this subdivision and approved by the secretary of state.  
4.9 Voter registration forms authorized by the National Voter Registration Act must also be  
4.10 accepted as valid. The federal postcard application form must also be accepted as valid if  
4.11 it is not deficient and the voter is eligible to register in Minnesota.

4.12 An individual may use a voter registration application to apply to register to vote in  
4.13 Minnesota or to change information on an existing registration.

4.14 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 201.091, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

4.15 Subd. 4. **Public information lists.** The county auditor shall make available for  
4.16 inspection a public information list which must contain the name, address, year of birth,  
4.17 and voting history of each registered voter in the county who is at least 18 years of age.  
4.18 The telephone number must be included on the list if provided by the voter. The public  
4.19 information list may also include information on voting districts. The county auditor  
4.20 may adopt reasonable rules governing access to the list. No individual inspecting the  
4.21 public information list shall tamper with or alter it in any manner. No individual who  
4.22 inspects the public information list or who acquires a list of registered voters prepared  
4.23 from the public information list may use any information contained in the list for purposes  
4.24 unrelated to elections, political activities, or law enforcement. The secretary of state may  
4.25 provide copies of the public information lists and other information from the statewide  
4.26 registration system for uses related to elections, political activities, or in response to a  
4.27 law enforcement inquiry from a public official concerning a failure to comply with any  
4.28 criminal statute or any state or local tax statute.

4.29 Before inspecting the public information list or obtaining a list of voters or other  
4.30 information from the list, the individual shall provide identification to the public official  
4.31 having custody of the public information list and shall state in writing that any information  
4.32 obtained from the list will not be used for purposes unrelated to elections, political  
4.33 activities, or law enforcement. Requests to examine or obtain information from the public  
4.34 information lists or the statewide registration system must be made and processed in the  
4.35 manner provided in the rules of the secretary of state.

5.1           Upon receipt of a statement signed by the voter that withholding the voter's name  
5.2           from the public information list is required for the safety of the voter or the voter's family,  
5.3           the secretary of state and county auditor must withhold from the public information list the  
5.4           name of a registered voter.