

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETIETH SESSION

S.F. No. 2171

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ)

DATE
03/16/2017

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OFFICIAL STATUS
Introduction and first reading
Referred to State Government Finance and Policy and Elections

1.1 A bill for an act
 1.2 relating to elections; increasing the number of voters an individual may assist in
 1.3 marking a ballot; amending Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 204C.15, subdivision
 1.4 1.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 204C.15, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Physical assistance in marking ballots.** A voter who claims a need for
 1.8 assistance because of inability to read English or physical inability to mark a ballot may
 1.9 obtain the aid of two election judges who are members of different major political parties.
 1.10 The election judges shall mark the ballots as directed by the voter and in as secret a manner
 1.11 as circumstances permit. A voter in need of assistance may alternatively obtain the assistance
 1.12 of any individual the voter chooses. Only the following persons may not provide assistance
 1.13 to a voter: the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, an officer or agent of the
 1.14 voter's union, or a candidate for election. The person who assists the voter shall,
 1.15 unaccompanied by an election judge, retire with that voter to a booth and mark the ballot
 1.16 as directed by the voter. ~~No person who assists another voter as provided in the preceding~~
 1.17 ~~sentence shall mark the ballots of more than three voters at one election.~~ Before the ballots
 1.18 are deposited, the voter may show them privately to an election judge to ascertain that they
 1.19 are marked as the voter directed. An election judge or other individual assisting a voter shall
 1.20 not in any manner request, persuade, induce, or attempt to persuade or induce the voter to
 1.21 vote for any particular political party or candidate. The election judges or other individuals
 1.22 who assist the voter shall not reveal to anyone the name of any candidate for whom the
 1.23 voter has voted or anything that took place while assisting the voter.