

CHAPTER 361—H.F.No. 523

An act relating to elections; changing certain voter registration procedures to increase voter participation; providing for a computerized central registration system, voter registration forms in state income tax forms and booklets, and a combined voter registration, driver's license, and identification card form; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 1986, sections 201.021; 201.054, subdivision 1; 201.061, subdivision 1; 201.071, subdivision 4; 201.081; 201.121, subdivision 1; 201.13; 201.15; 201.161; 201.171; 201.221, subdivisions 2 and 4; 290.39, by adding a subdivision; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 201.

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

Section 1. **[201.022] COMPUTERIZED CENTRAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM.**

Subdivision 1. ESTABLISHMENT. The secretary of state shall develop and implement a statewide computerized voter registration system to facilitate voter registration and to provide a central data base containing voter registration information from around the state. The system must be accessible to the county auditor of each county in the state.

Subd. 2. RULES. The secretary of state shall make permanent and emergency rules necessary to administer the system required in subdivision 1. The rules must at least:

(1) provide for voters to submit their registration to any county auditor, the secretary of state, or the department of public safety;

(2) provide for the establishment and maintenance of a central data base for all voter registration information;

(3) provide procedures for entering data into a central data base;

(4) provide for interaction with the computerized driver's license records of the department of public safety;

(5) allow the offices of all county auditors and the secretary of state to add, modify, and delete information from the system to provide for accurate and up-to-date records;

(6) allow the offices of all county auditors and the secretary of state's office to have access to the central data base for review and search capabilities;

(7) provide security and protection of all information in the central data base and monitor the central data base to ensure unauthorized entry is not allowed;

(8) provide a system for each county to identify the precinct to which a voter should be assigned for voting purposes;

Changes or additions are indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

(9) prescribe a procedure for phasing in or converting existing computerized records to the statewide voter registration data base; and

(10) prescribe a procedure for the return of completed voter registration forms from the department of public safety to the secretary of state or the county auditor.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 201.021, is amended to read:

201.021 PERMANENT REGISTRATION SYSTEM.

A permanent system of voter registration by county is established, with the county systems linked together by a centralized statewide system. The county auditor shall be chief registrar of voters and the chief custodian of the official registration records in each county. The secretary of state is responsible for maintaining the centralized system.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 201.054, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **REGISTRATION.** An individual may register to vote:

(a) (1) at any time before the 20th day preceding any election as provided in section 201.061, subdivision 1, in counties where preregistration is allowed; ~~or~~

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

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

(4) by submitting a registration card received in a state income tax form or booklet to the secretary of state's office; or

(5) by filling out the voter registration part of a driver's license application.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 201.061, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY.** At any time except during the 20 days immediately preceding any election, an eligible voter or any individual who will be an eligible voter at the time of the next election may register to vote in the precinct in which the voter maintains residence by completing a registration card and submitting it in person or by mail to the county auditor of that county, by completing the voter registration part of a driver's license application, or by submitting in person or by mail a registration card received in a state income tax form or booklet or elsewhere to the secretary of state's office. A registration card that is received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 21st day preceding any election shall be accepted. An improperly addressed or delivered registration card shall be forwarded within two working days after receipt to the county auditor of the county where the voter maintains residence.

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Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 201.071, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **CHANGE OF REGISTRATION.** Any county auditor who receives a registration card indicating that an individual was previously registered in a different county in Minnesota shall notify the county auditor of that county on a form prescribed by the secretary of state. A county auditor receiving a registration card indicating that a voter was previously registered in a different precinct in the same county or receiving a notification form as provided in this subdivision or section 204C.30, subdivision 2, shall delete that individual's name from the registration lists ~~and~~, remove the duplicate voter registration card, if any, and the original voter registration cards from the files, and change the registration information in the data base of the central registration system. Any county auditor who receives a registration card or notification requiring a change of registration records under this subdivision shall also check the duplicate registration card or file from the precinct of prior residence to determine whether the individual voted in that precinct in the most recent election.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 201.081, is amended to read:

201.081 REGISTRATION FILES.

The original registration file and the duplicate registration file shall be the record of registered voters. The original and duplicate registration files and the terminal providing access to the central registration system shall be kept in the office of the county auditor or in the office of a public official to whom the county auditor has delegated the responsibility of keeping either file. The files shall not be removed except that the duplicate file shall be delivered as provided in section 201.221, subdivision 3, to the duly authorized election judges for use on election day.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 201.121, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **ENTRY OF REGISTRATION INFORMATION.** Upon receiving a registration card properly completed and submitted in accordance with sections 201.061 and 201.071, the county auditor shall enter in the appropriate registration files and in the central registration system the registration card or the information contained on it.

Upon receiving a completed registration card or form, the secretary of state may electronically transmit the information on the card or form to the appropriate county auditor as soon as possible for review by the county auditor before final entry into the central registration system. The secretary of state shall mail the registration card or form to the county auditor for placement in the appropriate files.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 201.13, is amended to read:

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201.13 LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS, REPORT DEATHS TO COUNTY AUDITOR.

The local registrar of vital statistics in each county or municipality shall report monthly to the county auditor the name and address of each individual 18 years of age or older who has died while maintaining residence in that county or municipality since the last previous report. Upon receipt of the report, the county auditor shall remove from the files the original and duplicate registration cards of the voters reported to be deceased and make the appropriate changes in the data base of the central registration system.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 201.15, is amended to read:

201.15 PROBATE JUDGE, REPORT GUARDIANSHIPS AND COMMITMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **GUARDIANSHIPS, INCOMPETENTS AND PSYCHOPATHS.** The probate judge in each county shall report monthly to the county auditor the name and address of each individual 18 years of age or over, who maintains residence in that county and who, during the month preceding the date of the report:

- (a) was placed under a guardianship of the person;
- (b) adjudged legally incompetent by reason of mental illness, mental deficiency, or inebriation; or
- (c) was adjudged a psychopathic personality.

The judge shall also report the same information for each individual transferred to the jurisdiction of the court who meets a condition specified in clause (a), (b) or (c). Upon receipt of the report, the county auditor shall determine whether any individual named in the report is registered to vote. The county auditor shall attach a notice to the original and duplicate registration cards of any individual named in the report informing the election judges that the individual is not eligible to reregister or vote. The notice shall contain the reason for ineligibility, the date of the determination, and the dated signature of the county auditor. The cards may be retained in the registration file for the entire period of the voter's ineligibility and need not be purged in accordance with section 201.171. The county auditor shall also make the appropriate changes in the data base of the central registration system.

Subd. 2. **RESTORATION TO CAPACITY.** The probate judge in each county shall report monthly to the county auditor the name and address of each individual transferred from guardianship to conservatorship or who is restored to capacity by the court after being ineligible to vote for any of the reasons specified in subdivision 1. Upon notice from the judge of probate of a restoration to capacity, or of a transfer from guardianship to conservatorship, the county auditor shall remove the notice from the individual's registration cards

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and thereafter process the cards in the same manner as if no guardianship or adjudication had occurred. The county auditor shall also make the appropriate changes in the data base of the central registration system.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 201.161, is amended to read:

201.161 DRIVER'S LICENSE CHANGES AND IDENTIFICATION CARD APPLICATIONS.

When an individual applies for a corrected duplicate driver's license pursuant to section 171.11, the department of public safety shall transmit a voter registration card to the applicant. Voter registration cards shall also be available from clerks and agents who receive applications pursuant to sections 171.06 and 171.07. Voter registration cards shall be provided at no cost to the department of public safety by the secretary of state. The department of public safety shall change its applications for an original, duplicate, or change of address driver's license or identification card so that the forms may also serve as voter registration cards. The forms must contain spaces for the information required in section 201.071, subdivision 1, and applicable rules of the secretary of state. Applicants for driver's licenses or identification cards must be asked if they want to register to vote at the same time. A copy of each application containing a completed voter registration must be sent to the county auditor of the county in which the voter maintains residence or to the secretary of state as soon as possible. The computerized driver's license record information relating to name, address, date of birth, driver's license number, county, town, and city must be made available for access by the secretary of state and interaction with the statewide voter registration system.

Sec. 11. [201.162] DUTIES OF STATE AGENCIES.

The commissioner or chief administrative officer of each state agency or community-based public agency or nonprofit corporation that contracts with the state agency to carry out obligations of the state agency shall provide voter registration services for employees and the public. A person may complete a voter registration application or apply to change a voter registration name or address if the person has the proper qualifications on the date of application. Nonpartisan voter registration assistance, including routinely asking members of the public served by the agency whether they would like to register to vote and, if necessary, assisting them in preparing the registration forms must be part of the job of appropriate agency employees.

Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 201.171, is amended to read:

201.171 FAILURE TO VOTE; REGISTRATION REMOVED.

After the close of each calendar year, the county auditor shall remove the original and duplicate registration cards of any voter who has not voted during the four preceding calendar years in any election, including but not limited to a school district election where the permanent voter registration system is used.

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Although not counted in an election, a late absentee ballot shall be considered a vote for the purpose of continuing registration. The county auditor shall also make the appropriate changes in the data base of the central registration system.

Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 201.221, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **UNIFORM PROCEDURES FOR COUNTIES.** The secretary of state shall assist local election officers by devising uniform forms and procedures. The secretary of state shall provide uniform rules for counties maintaining voter registration records on data processing systems so that the systems are compatible with a uniform system of electronic data maintenance and the central computerized voter registration system. The secretary of state shall supervise the development and use of the system to insure that it conforms to applicable laws and rules.

Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 201.221, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **COUNTY RULES.** The county auditor of each county may adopt rules which delegate to municipal officials in that county the duties assigned to county auditors by this chapter. Delegation to a municipal official requires the approval of the governing body of the municipality. Delegation by the county auditor of the duty to accept registrations does not relieve the county auditor of the duty to accept registrations. When a municipal official is delegated duties given to the county auditor by this chapter, the governing body of the municipality shall immediately provide the necessary funds, equipment and facilities, establish a place of registration and put the registration plan into operation without delay.

Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 290.39, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 4. VOTER REGISTRATION FORM. The commissioner shall insert securely in each individual income tax return form or instruction booklet a voter registration form, returnable to the secretary of state, designed according to rules adopted by the secretary of state.

Sec. 16. **APPROPRIATION.**

Subdivision 1. SECRETARY OF STATE. \$1,053,500 is appropriated from the special revenue fund to the secretary of state to implement and administer the computerized central voter registration system under section 1, to be available for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 1989. The approved complement of the office of the secretary of state shall be increased by six persons.

Subd. 2. COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY. \$80,492 is appropriated from the trunk highway fund to the commissioner of public safety to implement the combined application and voter registration system mandated in section 10, to be available for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 1989.

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Subd. 3. COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE. \$56,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of revenue to implement the voter registration insert program mandated in section 15, to be available for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 1989.

Approved June 2, 1987

CHAPTER 362—H.F.No. 715

An act relating to unemployment compensation; regulating administration of unemployment compensation; providing for benefits and contribution rates; amending Minnesota Statutes 1986, sections 268.04, subdivisions 2, 4, 24, 26, and by adding subdivisions; 268.06, subdivisions 2, 3a, 8, and by adding a subdivision; 268.07, subdivisions 2, 2a, and 3; 268.071, subdivision 1; 268.08, subdivision 1; 268.09, subdivisions 1 and 2; 268.10, subdivisions 1 and 2; 268.12, subdivision 8; 268.121; 268.15, subdivision 3; and 268.16, subdivision 2; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 268; repealing Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 268.04, subdivisions 29 and 30.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 268.04, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. "Base period" means the period of ~~52 calendar weeks immediately preceding the first day of an individual's benefit year. However, if a claimant received weekly worker's compensation for temporary total disability under the provisions of chapter 176 or under a similar law of the United States for more than seven weeks within the base period; or if a claimant, whose own serious illness caused a loss of credit weeks within the base period; received compensation due to the illness from some other source or under a law of this state other than chapter 176 or under a similar law of the United States for more than seven weeks within the base period; the claimant's base period shall be lengthened by the same number of weeks; but not to exceed 52 weeks; for which the claimant received the payments. No extended base period shall include wage credits upon which benefits were established and paid with respect to a prior valid claim~~ first four of the last five completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of an individual's benefit year; except: (a) if during the base period an individual received workers' compensation for temporary disability under chapter 176 or a similar law of the United States, or if an individual whose own serious illness caused a loss of work for which the individual received compensation due to the illness from some other source or under a law of this state other than chapter 176 or a similar law of the United States, the individual's base period shall be lengthened to the extent stated as follows:

(1) if an individual was compensated, as described above, for a loss of work of seven to 13 weeks, the original base period shall be extended to include one calendar quarter preceding the original base period; or

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