

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 3, OF THE CODE, IN REFERENCE TO GENERAL ELECTIONS.

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

SECTION 1. That the words in the third and fourth lines in said section 603, Code, “but
2 the board of supervisors may, in their judgment, divide any township in their county into
3 two or more precincts,” be stricken out and in lieu of the same there be inserted the follow-
4 ing: But in any township where more than four hundred votes shall have been polled
5 at the last general election, preceding any election it shall be the duty of the board of
6 supervisors to divide any such township in their county into as many polling precincts so
7 that no more than four hundred votes shall be polled in any one precinct in said township.

SEC. 2. That section 603, Code, be amended by striking out the word “three,” in the first
2 line of said section, and there be inserted in lieu thereof the word “four.” And that the
3 word “two,” in the third line of said section, be stricken out and there be inserted in lieu
4 thereof the word “four.”

SEC. 3. That section 614 of the Code be amended by striking out the words, “one box,”
2 in the second line of said section and there be inserted in place thereof, the words, “two
3 boxes.”

SEC. 4. That in all counties in this State four judges (one of whom shall be a member of
2 each political party) of election shall be appointed by the board of supervisors for each
3 election precinct in each of said counties; and there shall also be provided two ballot
4 boxes for said judges of election, one of which shall be numbered, No. 1, and the other
6 numbered No. 2; and it shall be the duty of said judges to select from these, two judges,
7 who shall be designated and known as receiving judges, and two who shall be known and
8 designated as counting judges. After the judges have taken the oath as provided by law,
9 the ballot box No. 1 shall be opened and examined by all the judges and clerks and every-
10 thing removed therefrom, and one of the receiving judges first selected shall receive the
11 ballot of each elector, and after pronouncing the name of said elector in an audible voice,
12 shall pass the ballot to the other receiving judge, who shall number the same and deposit
13 it in said ballot box No. 1, which shall be kept securely closed while the balloting continues
14 for one hour from the time of opening the polls. At the expiration of said hour the
15 receiving judges shall deliver said ballot box No. 1 to the counting judges, who shall imme-
16 diately deliver over to the said receiving judges ballot box No. 2, which ballot box No. 2 shall

17 be opened and examined in the presence of all the judges and clerks, and after everything
18 is removed therefrom, shall be securely closed, and during the next hour said receiving
19 judges shall receive and deposit ballots therein in the same manner as during the first
20 hour ballots were received and deposited in ballot box No. 1. After the delivery of ballot
21 box No. 1 to the counting judges, the same shall be immediately opened by them and the
22 tickets shall be taken out, one at a time, by one of the counting judges, who shall read
23 distinctly, while the ticket remains in his hand, the name, or names, written or printed
24 thereon, also the office that is intended to be filled by such persons voted for and deliver
25 the same to the counting judge, who shall string the same on a thread or string as the bal-
26 lots are so counted and the name or names are read by the said judge. Two of the clerks shall
27 each enter in a separate column opposite the names of the persons so balloted for as pro-
28 vided for in the form of the poll books, all the votes so read by the judges aforesaid. The same
29 method shall be observed with each ticket and the counting shall continue until all the
30 ballots in the box are counted, and then the counting judges shall securely close the ballot
31 box No. 1 and deliver the same to the receiving judges, and receive from the receiving
32 judges ballot box No. 2, and so on in the same manner until the polls are closed and all the
33 ballots are counted. No person or persons shall be admitted in the room or office when
34 such ballots are being counted except the judges and clerks of election; *provided*, that any
35 political party may select a representative man who may be admitted as a witness of such
36 counting. It shall be the duty of one of the judges to announce to the electors present the
37 total number of votes polled at each change of the ballot box; but the judges, clerks and
38 witnesses shall make oath that they will not make any statement nor give any information of any
39 kind as to the number of votes polled for any office or person voted for; nor any other fact
40 tending in any way to show the state of the polls at any time previous to the closing of the
41 polls of said election on the day of the same.