

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO REGULATE THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS.

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

That sections Nos. 617, 621, 623 and 630, of chapter 3, title 5, of the Code be and the same are hereby repealed and the following enacted in lieu thereof :

SECTION 1. The ballot shall be folded by the voter and delivered to one of judges of the election, and if the judges be satisfied that the person offering the vote is a legal voter, the clerks of election shall enter the name of the voter and his number under the proper headings in the poll books, and shall endorse on the back of the ticket thus voted the number corresponding with the number of the voter on the poll books, and shall immediately deposit the ticket into the ballot box.

SEC. 2. After the opening of the polls no adjournment shall be had, nor shall any recess be taken further than to take the usual and regular meals, until all the votes cast at such election shall have been counted and the result publicly announced.

SEC. 3. If any unnumbered ballot or ballots shall be found folded within a numbered ballot it shall not invalidate the numbered ballot.

SEC. 4. Immediately after closing the polls the judges shall first compare poll list from the beginning and correct any errors there may be found therein until they agree ; then count the whole number of ballots in the box. If the ballots shall be found to exceed the number of names entered on each of the poll lists they shall reject the ballots if any be found upon which no number is marked. If the number of ballots still exceed the number of names entered on each of the poll lists they shall be replaced in the box and the box closed and well shaken and again opened, and one of the judges shall publicly draw out one at a time and destroy so many ballots unopened as shall be equal to such excess, and the ballots and poll lists agreeing or being made to agree the board shall proceed to count and estimate and proclaim the vote.

SEC. 5. All the ballots counted by the judges of election shall, after being read be strung upon a strong twine in the order in which they have been read, and shall then be carefully enveloped and sealed up by the judges, who shall direct and deliver the same to the township clerk, who shall carefully preserve said ballots for six months, and at the expiration of that time shall destroy them by burning, without the package being previously opened.

SEC. 6. Provided, however, that if any contest of election shall be pending at such time
2 in which such ballots may be required as evidence, the same shall not destroyed until such
3 contest is finally determined.

SEC. 7. In all cases of contested elections the parties contesting the same shall have the
2 right to have the said packages of ballots opened and said ballots referred to by witnesses
3 for the purpose of such contest, but said ballots shall only be so opened and examined and
4 referred to in the presence of the officer having the custody thereof, and only upon the
5 order of the court having jurisdiction of the case in contest.

SEC. 8. All acts and parts of acts not consistent herewith are hereby repealed.