

JAN 31 2001
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 137
BY FOEGE

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the ongoing status of absentee voters.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 137

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 53.3 ONGOING ABSENTEE VOTER.

2 A registered voter applying for an absentee ballot under
3 section 53.2 may request to receive an absentee ballot for
4 each subsequent election in which that person is eligible to
5 vote, and qualifies under section 53.1. For each subsequent
6 election, the commissioner shall automatically mail an
7 absentee ballot to the requesting voter, or automatically
8 deliver an absentee ballot to a confined person pursuant to
9 section 53.22. A voter's status as an ongoing absentee voter
10 shall be terminated upon the request of the voter, by the
11 commissioner if the voter fails to qualify under section 53.1,
12 or if the voter fails to vote in a general election.

13 Sec. 2. Section 53.40, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2001,
14 is amended to read as follows:

15 A request in writing for a ballot may be made by any member
16 of the armed forces of the United States who is or will be a
17 qualified voter on the day of the election at which the ballot
18 is to be cast, at any time before the election. Any member of
19 the armed forces of the United States may request ballots for
20 all elections to be held within a calendar year. The request
21 may be made by using the federal postcard application form and
22 indicating that the applicant wishes to receive ballots for
23 all elections as permitted by state law. The county auditor
24 shall send the applicant a ballot for each election held
25 during the calendar year in which the application is received.
26 Any member of the armed forces of the United States may also
27 apply for status as an ongoing absentee voter pursuant to
28 section 53.3.

29 EXPLANATION

30 This bill allows an absentee voter to receive absentee
31 ballots for all subsequent elections without having to reapply
32 before each election. A person's status as an ongoing
33 absentee voter can be terminated by that person, by the county
34 commissioner of elections if the person fails to qualify as an
35 absentee voter, or if the voter fails to vote in a general

1 election.

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