

FEB 23 2001
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 398
BY FREVERT

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the early closing of polling places in
2 certain precincts.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 398

1 Section 1. Section 49.73, subsection 2, Code 2001, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. The commissioner shall not shorten voting hours for any
4 election if there is filed in the commissioner's office, at
5 least twenty-five days before the election, a petition signed
6 by at least fifty eligible electors of the school district or
7 city, as the case may be, requesting that the polls be opened
8 not later than seven o'clock a.m. All polling places where
9 the candidates of or any public question submitted by any one
10 political subdivision are being voted upon shall be opened at
11 the same hour, except that this requirement shall not apply to
12 merged areas established under chapter 260C. The hours at
13 which the respective precinct polling places are to open shall
14 not be changed after publication of the notice required by
15 section 49.53. The polling places shall be closed at nine
16 o'clock p.m. for state primary and general elections and other
17 partisan elections, and for any other election held
18 concurrently therewith, and at eight o'clock p.m. for all
19 other elections. In precincts having fewer than one hundred
20 registered voters, the commissioner may direct that the
21 polling places be closed at eight p.m., or when all registered
22 voters in such precincts have voted, whichever occurs first.

23 EXPLANATION

24 This bill amends Code section 49.73 to allow a county
25 commissioner of elections to close polling places early in
26 precincts with fewer than 100 registered voters. The
27 commissioner may direct that the polls be closed in such
28 precincts at eight p.m. or when all registered voters have
29 voted, whichever occurs first.

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