

MAR 2 2001
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 476
BY FORD, KREIMAN, and SHOULTZ

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the process for restoring for certain persons
2 the right to register to vote and to vote and providing an
3 applicability date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 476

1 Section 1. Section 48A.6, subsection 1, Code 2001, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. A person who has been convicted of a felony as defined
4 in section 701.7, or convicted of an offense classified as a
5 felony under federal law. ~~If~~ When the person's rights are
6 later restored by the governor, or ~~by the president of the~~
7 ~~United States,~~ pursuant to section 914.8, the person may
8 register to vote.

9 Sec. 2. Section 914.2, Code 2001, is amended to read as
10 follows:

11 914.2 RIGHT OF APPLICATION.

12 Except as otherwise provided in section 902.2 or 914.8, a
13 person convicted of a criminal offense has the right to make
14 application to the board of parole for recommendation or to
15 the governor for a reprieve, pardon, commutation of sentence,
16 remission of fines or forfeitures, or restoration of rights of
17 citizenship at any time following the conviction.

18 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 914.8 RESTORATION OF RIGHT TO
19 REGISTER AND TO VOTE.

20 1. When a person, who has once been convicted of a felony
21 criminal offense, is discharged from probation under section
22 907.9, discharged from parole or work release under section
23 906.15, or released from confinement under section 902.6
24 because the person has completed the person's term of
25 confinement, the person's right to register to vote and to
26 vote is restored.

27 2. Upon discharge from confinement or supervision, the
28 department of corrections or judicial district department of
29 correctional services, whichever is applicable, shall provide
30 written notice to the inmate, parolee, or probationer of the
31 person's discharge which shall include a statement that the
32 person's right to register to vote and to vote has been
33 restored.

34 3. The department of corrections shall monthly provide a
35 list of all persons discharged from confinement or supervision

1 to the state registrar of voters who shall provide the
2 information to the county registrars of voters as deemed
3 necessary.

4 4. The department of corrections shall, within fourteen
5 days of a person's discharge from confinement or supervision,
6 provide a course of instruction to the person regarding the
7 person's voting rights and whether the person is allowed to
8 register to vote and to vote pursuant to this section, or
9 whether the person must apply for a restoration of citizenship
10 and the method by which that may be accomplished.

11 Sec. 4. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to persons
12 discharged from probation, parole, work release, or otherwise
13 released from confinement on or after July 1, 2001.

14 EXPLANATION

15 This bill makes restoration of the right to register to
16 vote and to vote automatic upon a person's release from
17 probation, parole, or work release, or upon completion of the
18 person's term of confinement if the person has only once been
19 convicted of a felony offense.

20 The bill requires the department of corrections or the
21 judicial district department of correctional services to
22 provide written notice of restoration of voting rights to
23 persons upon discharge from confinement or supervision.

24 The bill requires the department of corrections to, once
25 each month, send a list of those persons discharged from
26 confinement or supervision to the state registrar of voters.

27 The bill requires the department of corrections to offer
28 instruction on restoring the right to vote to persons
29 discharged from confinement or supervision, within 14 days of
30 discharge.

31 The bill applies to persons discharged on or after July 1,
32 2001.

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