

MAR 2 2001

3/8/01 Do Pass
5-3/19/01 State Hous
5-4-2-01 Do Pass

STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 481
BY GRUNDBERG

Passed House, ^(P. 750) Date 3-19-01 Passed Senate, ^(P. 108) Date 4-9-01
Vote: Ayes 95 Nays 1 Vote: Ayes 46 Nays 0
Approved April 18, 2001

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the establishment of city precincts and
2 providing an effective date.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

HF 481

1 Section 1. Section 49.5, Code 2001, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 49.5 CITY PRECINCTS.

4 The council of a city where establishment of more than one
5 precinct is necessary or deemed advisable shall at the time
6 required by law, divide the city into the number of election
7 precincts as will best serve the convenience of the voters
8 while promoting electoral efficiency. As used in this
9 section, the term "the convenience of the voters" refers to,
10 but is not necessarily limited to, the use of precinct
11 boundaries which can be readily described to and identified by
12 voters and for which there is ease of access by voters to
13 their respective precinct polling places by reasonably direct
14 routes of travel. As used in this section, the term
15 "promoting electoral efficiency" means reducing the cost of
16 staffing election precincts by requiring cities to avoid
17 creating more precincts than is reasonably necessary to
18 provide voters access to voting.

19 The precinct boundaries shall conform to section 49.3 and
20 shall be described in an ordinance adopted by the council
21 within the time required by section 49.7. Before final
22 adoption of any change in election precinct boundaries
23 pursuant to this section or section 49.6, the council shall
24 permit the commissioner not less than seven and not more than
25 ten days time to offer written comments to the council on the
26 proposed reprecincting. If the commissioner recommends
27 changes in the proposed reprecincting which the commissioner
28 concludes could better serve the convenience of the voters or
29 could promote electoral efficiency, including lowering
30 election costs, the council shall, if no changes to the
31 reprecincting are made, include reasons in the ordinance for
32 not adopting the proposed changes of the commissioner. A
33 public hearing shall be held before final adoption of the
34 ordinance. Notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing
35 shall be given as provided in chapter 21.

HOUSE FILE 481

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CITY PRECINCTS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Section 1. Section 49.5, Code 2001, is amended to read as follows:

49.5 CITY PRECINCTS.

The council of a city where establishment of more than one precinct is necessary or deemed advisable shall at the time required by law, divide the city into the number of election precincts as will best serve the convenience of the voters while promoting electoral efficiency. As used in this section, the term "the convenience of the voters" refers to, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of precinct boundaries which can be readily described to and identified by voters and for which there is ease of access by voters to their respective precinct polling places by reasonably direct routes of travel. As used in this section, the term "promoting electoral efficiency" means reducing the cost of staffing election precincts by requiring cities to avoid creating more precincts than is reasonably necessary to provide voters access to voting.

The precinct boundaries shall conform to section 49.3 and shall be described in an ordinance adopted by the council within the time required by section 49.7. Before final adoption of any change in election precinct boundaries pursuant to this section or section 49.6, the council shall permit the commissioner not less than seven and not more than ten days time to offer written comments to the council on the proposed reprecincting. If the commissioner recommends changes in the proposed reprecincting which the commissioner

concludes could better serve the convenience of the voters or could promote electoral efficiency, including lowering election costs, the council shall, if no changes to the reprecincting are made, include reasons in the ordinance for not adopting the proposed changes of the commissioner. A public hearing shall be held before final adoption of the ordinance. Notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing shall be given as provided in chapter 21.

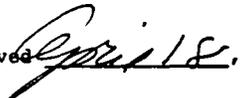
Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

BRENT SIEGRIST
Speaker of the House

MARY E. KRAMER
President of the Senate

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the House and is known as House File 481, Seventy-ninth General Assembly.

MARGARET THOMSON
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved  2001

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Governor