

FILED MAR 15 1979

SENATE FILE

439

BY LUNDBY and BOLKCOM

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act to allow for increased third-party ballot access.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 439
STATE GOVERNMENT

1 Section 1. Section 43.2, Code 2001, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 43.2 DEFINITIONS.

4 The term "political party" shall mean a party which, at the
5 last preceding general election, cast for its candidate for
6 ~~president-of-the-United-States-or-for-governor,--as-the-case~~
7 ~~may-be~~ any statewide office, at least two percent of the total
8 vote cast for all candidates for that office at that election.
9 It shall be the responsibility of the state commissioner to
10 determine whether any organization claiming to be a political
11 party qualifies as such under the foregoing definition.

12 In order to maintain its ballot status, a political party
13 must continue to meet the percentage of the vote requirement
14 in the foregoing definition, or must maintain registrations
15 with that party in a number equal to or greater than one-half
16 of one percent of the total number of voters who cast ballots
17 in the last preceding general election. It shall be the
18 responsibility of the state commissioner to determine whether
19 a political party continues to maintain ballot status under
20 this paragraph.

21 A political organization which is not a "political party"
22 within the meaning of this section may nominate candidates and
23 have the names of such candidates placed upon the official
24 ballot by proceeding under chapters 44 and 45.

25 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
26 requires, "book", "list", "record", or "schedule" kept by a
27 county auditor, assessor, treasurer, recorder, sheriff, or
28 other county officer means the county system as defined in
29 section 445.1.

30 EXPLANATION

31 This bill changes the definition of "political party" to
32 allow greater ballot access to third parties. A party that
33 receives 2 percent of the vote for any statewide office will
34 now qualify as a "political party". The bill also allows a
35 party to maintain its status as a political party either by

1 continuing to meet the above definition or by maintaining
2 registrations to their party of 0.5 percent of the total
3 number of persons who voted in the last preceding general
4 election.

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