

JAN 13 2005
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 59
BY ROBERTS

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the determination of partisan balance on
2 boards and commissions and including an applicability
3 provision.

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

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HF 59

1 Section 1. Section 69.16, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code
2 2005, is amended to read as follows:

3 All appointive boards, commissions, and councils of the
4 state established by the Code if not otherwise provided by law
5 shall be bipartisan in their composition. ~~No~~ A person shall
6 not be appointed or reappointed to any board, commission, or
7 council established by the Code if the effect of that
8 appointment or reappointment would cause the number of members
9 of the board, commission, or council belonging to one eligible
10 political party to be-greater exceed by more than one-half-the
11 membership one the members of the board, commission, or
12 council plus-one belonging to another eligible political
13 party. For purposes of this section, an eligible political
14 party is a political party, as defined in section 43.2, that
15 has one of the two highest numbers of registered voters in
16 this state. The political party to which a person belongs for
17 purposes of this section shall be determined prior to the date
18 of the person's appointment or reappointment, based on the
19 party registration, if any, of the person as of the date of
20 the most recent general election, the date of the most recent
21 primary election, or the date the person becomes eligible to
22 register to vote, whichever is latest.

23 Sec. 2. APPLICABILITY. This Act is applicable to
24 appointments or reappointments made on or after the effective
25 date of this Act to appointive boards, commissions, and
26 councils subject to Code section 69.16.

27 EXPLANATION

28 This bill concerns the determination of partisan balance
29 for appointive boards, commissions, and councils. The bill
30 provides that the number of members of an appointive board,
31 commission, or council of one eligible political party shall
32 not exceed by more than one the number of members from another
33 eligible political party. Under current law, the number of
34 members of such a body belonging to one political party shall
35 not be greater than one-half of the membership of the body.

1 The bill defines an eligible political party as a party
2 that has one of the two highest numbers of registered voters
3 in the state. In addition, the political party of a person to
4 be appointed or reappointed is determined based upon the
5 person's party registration as of the most recent general
6 election, most recent primary election, or the date the person
7 became eligible to vote, whichever is latest. The bill
8 provides that this change applies to appointments and
9 reappointments made on or after the effective date of the
10 bill.

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