



## Amendment *SUMMARY*

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# Voter Suppression HF 516

Status of Bill: Amendment from the Senate (26-21)  
Committee: State Government  
Lead Democrats: Rep Winckler, Rep Lensing  
Floor Manager: Rep Rizer  
Research Analyst: Brian Guillaume 515-281-5159  
[brian.guillaume@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:brian.guillaume@legis.iowa.gov)

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## Amendment Summary

### H-1238 Senate Amendment

The Senate Republicans have taken a bad voter suppression bill and made it substantially worse by making a number of changes.

Current law allows for a 40-day early voting period in Iowa, the amendment shortens it by 11 days to allow for only 29 days for absentee and satellite voting for Iowans. **Approximately 34,000 people voted in the first 11 days of voting in the 2016 Election.** Currently only 4 states have a longer early voting window than Iowa, (Vermont, New Jersey, Minnesota, and South Dakota). All of these states allow for 45 days of in person absentee voting.

According to the League of United Latin American Citizens of Iowa, between 30-40% of Latino voters voted early in the 2016 election.

The amendment removes party affiliation on any General Election absentee ballot envelope.

The amendment increases hurdles for those who register to vote by mail. Current law requires someone who registers to vote by mail and has not voted for federal office in the county they are required to show identification unless they have provided a driver's license or non-operator license number or the last 4 digits of the Social Security number or a proof of residency. The amendment changes this to include a form of identification as well as a proof of residency, which includes a residential lease, property tax statement, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, and other government documents. (Matches E-Day Registration Requirements)

The amendment changes the "Voter Registration Cards" to "Voter Identification Cards." The cards must include the name of the registered voter, signature line, registered voter identification's number and an additional four digit pin numbers assigned by the Secretary of State. (SOS)

The amendment requires the SOS to compare data with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and send out identification cards to every registered voter who does not have a current driver's license or non-operator ID.

The amendment removes the requirement that the county auditor takes on the responsibility of sending out the "free IDs" and puts the responsibility of sending out the "Voter Identification Cards" to the SOS.

The amendment makes changes to the voter declaration of eligibility to include the voter's date of birth.

The amendment increases the amount of identification requirements for a person whose name does not appear on the election registration, the person is currently required to show proof of identity this increases to now show proof of identity as well as proof of residency. (Matches E-Day Registration Requirements)

The amendment allows for the Secretary of State to examine at their discretion the records of any county auditor to evaluate complaints and ensure compliance of chapters 39 through 53 of the Iowa Code.

The amendment also makes numerous changes to filing/ withdrawal/ and vacancy deadlines:

- Extends the deadline by 8 days for a vacancy to be filled for US, State, and County officers.
- For the SOS to certify nominees for a General and Judicial Election the deadline is extended 5 days
- Extends the deadline to withdraw or for what constitutes a vacancy for a candidate by 8 days.
- Extends the deadline to fill a ballot vacancy for a General Election by 8 days for a General Election.
- Extends the deadline by 8 days for nominations to be filed by Nonpolitical Parties.
- Extends the timeline to withdraw for a non-political party by 6 days to the SOS.
- Extends vacancies ability to be filled by 6 days if the paperwork is to be turned into the SOS.

The amendment also makes other technical changes that include:

- How partisan nominees are arranged on the ballot, by alternating placement by precinct.
- Increases the number of observers for each political party for the review of absentee ballots from 2 to 5.
- Increases the number of challengers for each political party when counting absentee ballots from 1 to 5.

The amendment will also allow someone who is not 18 years old, but will be by the time of the General Election, to register and vote in a Primary Election.

#### **H-1284 to H-1238 by Lensing of Johnson Statewide Voter Registration Overhaul**

This amendment addresses the main concern of the auditors and ensures election integrity by overhauling the statewide voter registration system. This amendment will make sure everyone who is allowed to vote, gets to vote and will actually modernize and provide increased integrity to our election system.

#### **H-1253 to H-1238 by Rizer of Linn**

This amendment removes the requirement of rotating names for candidates by precinct, the amendment also moves the effective date of the allowance for a 17 year old to vote in a primary to 2019.

#### **H-1317 to H-1238 by Rizer of Linn**

This amendment makes several changes:

- It removes the requirement of rotating names for candidates by precinct;
- The amendment also moves the effective date of the allowance for a 17 year old to vote in a primary to 2019.
- Changes the effective date of the new Absentee request provisions for January 1, 2018.
- It moves the requirement of sending out the voter identification cards back to the auditor after the initial batch is sent by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State is still required to check with the DOT on a weekly basis and then the Secretary of State sends the information to the county auditors who send out the cards. If a registered voter is on the DOT files, they will not receive a voter identification card. It is also unclear if a voter registration card that is sent out is any different than the new voter identification card.
- Requires the Secretary of State to establish rules for the written acknowledgement requirements of a voter registration that are current law.
- Returns to current law for certain vacancy and candidate withdrawal provisions.

**H-1316 to H-1238 by Ourth of Warren**

Allows for a person requesting an absentee ballot to put the last four of their social security number on the request form instead of the voter verification number or driver’s license number.

**H-1290 to H-1238 by Steckman of Cerro Gordo Removes the Additional Identification Requirements**

This amendment removes the additional proof of residency burden on those whose name does not show up in the poll book or who mail their registration form in. Current law only requires these voters to show a form of identification when voting, this amendment would maintain this requirement.

**H-1277 to H-1238 by Hunter of Polk Voter ID to Every Eligible Voter**

This amendment would require a voter ID be sent out to every eligible voter in the state, not just the registered voters. The mailing should also include an educational piece about the new voting laws in the state in non-forwardable mail.

**H-1287 to H-1238 by Nielsen of Johnson Timeline Sent and Replacement IDS**

Requires that Voter Identification Cards be sent from non-forwardable mail and requires overnight delivery. The amendment also stipulates that replacement cards are to be delivered in the same manner and be free of charge. The lost card is to be invalid once a replacement card is received. In Wisconsin cards were taking as long as 8 weeks to be sent out, disenfranchising eligible voters. In September of 2016 a federal judge ordered Wisconsin to investigate if the Photo IDs were being sent on time as promised.

**H-1275 to H-1238 by Cohoon of Des Moines Birthday Requirement**

This amendment removes the requirement that a person put their birthdate when signing in to vote at their polling location.

**H-1280 to H-1238 by Hunter of Polk Election Notice Must Include IDs Accepted**

Requires that the notice of Election that is currently required list the types of identification that will be required for voters to cast a vote in the Election.

**H-1281 to H-1238 by Winckler of Scott Voter Registration Cards**

This amendment allows for a voter registration card as an acceptable form of ID.

**H-1288 to H-1238 by Winckler of Scott Increase the Number of ID’s accepted**

This amendment adds the following to a list of acceptable forms of Identification to vote at the polls:

- SNAP CARD
- Employer ID
- Hunting License
- Public Assistance ID
- Fishing License
- Medicaid or Medicare Card
- School ID, whether a High School or College/University ID
- Utility Bill in Electronic or Print Format
- Paycheck
- Public Employee ID
- Utility Bill
- Tribal ID
- Long Term Care ID
- Birth Certificate
- Debit or Credit Card
- Social Security Card
- Any ID approved by the County Auditors Association

**H-1289 to H-1238 by Hunter of Polk Voting Booth Access**

This amendment requires that all voting locations be equipped with a voting booth that is accessible and modified for Iowans that have a disability.

**H-1283 to H-1238 by Hall of Woodbury Fix the Budget before Implementation**

This amendment would not allow the bill to go into effect until there are 3 consecutive fiscal year budgets that do not require a de-appropriation bill or the legislature having to dip into the reserve funds.

**H-1279 to H-1238 by Hunter of Polk Whole Act Not In Effect until IDs Paid For**

Moves the effective date for photo ID requirement to vote until the General Assembly has deemed there is enough money available that is similar to what LSA has found to be the costs. This also requires LSA to take into account the costs of other states that have passed similar legislation while determining the costs associated with implementation of the photo ID requirements.

**H-1285 to H-1238 by Lensing of Johnson Not Effective Until Statewide Voter Registration Modernization**

This amendment addresses the main concern of the auditors and ensures election integrity by overhauling the statewide voter registration system and moving the effective date of the legislation back until the system is overhauled. This will make sure everyone who is allowed to vote, gets to vote and will actually modernize and provide increased integrity to our election system.

**H-1286 to H-1238 by Mascher of Johnson Attorney General to Examine the Secretary of State**

This amendment allows for the Attorney General to investigate at their discretion the records and to evaluate complaints to ensure compliance of the law in office of the Secretary of State.

**H-1278 to H-1238 by Hunter of Polk Ongoing Absentee Status**

This amendment allows for an eligible voter to apply for ongoing absentee ballot status for subsequent elections. Eight states plus Washington DC currently allow ongoing absentee voting as an option.

**H-1282 to H-1238 by Mascher of Johnson Keep Early Voting Period**

This amendment removes the elimination of 11 days of early voting in the Senate amendment and maintains current law.

**H-1276 to H-1238 by Hunter of Polk Felon Voting Rights**

Currently anyone who has been convicted of a felony is barred from voting until their rights are restored, based on the definition of an "infamous crime." This amendment defines infamous crime to not include any misdemeanor or non-forcible felony. The amendment also restores the right to vote as soon as the discharge of the criminal conviction, including any period of probation or parole. Fines, fees, and restitution do not need to be paid for rights to be restored.

**H-1321 to H-1238 by Nielsen of Johnson**

The SOS must provide notice to the legislative council and the Iowa Code editor all the number of cases of voter fraud that have taken place over the last ten years and the number of successful voter fraud cases that would have been stopped due to this legislation, an estimate of the number of cases that will be stopped in the next ten years.

All employees in the Secretary of State office must provide signed agreements to the cases and certify that they were fraud.