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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. **174**

01/14/2015 Authored by Mahoney; Johnson, S.; Clark; Schoen; Dehn, R., and others

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Elections Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to elections; increasing the number of voters an individual may assist
1.3 in marking a ballot; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 204C.15,
1.4 subdivision 1.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 204C.15, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Physical assistance in marking ballots.** A voter who claims a need
1.8 for assistance because of inability to read English or physical inability to mark a ballot
1.9 may obtain the aid of two election judges who are members of different major political
1.10 parties. The election judges shall mark the ballots as directed by the voter and in as secret
1.11 a manner as circumstances permit. A voter in need of assistance may alternatively obtain
1.12 the assistance of any individual the voter chooses. Only the following persons may not
1.13 provide assistance to a voter: the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, an
1.14 officer or agent of the voter's union, or a candidate for election. The person who assists the
1.15 voter shall, unaccompanied by an election judge, retire with that voter to a booth and mark
1.16 the ballot as directed by the voter. No person who assists another voter as provided in the
1.17 preceding sentence shall mark the ballots of more than ~~three~~ 15 voters at one election.

1.18 Before the ballots are deposited, the voter may show them privately to an election judge to
1.19 ascertain that they are marked as the voter directed. An election judge or other individual
1.20 assisting a voter shall not in any manner request, persuade, induce, or attempt to persuade
1.21 or induce the voter to vote for any particular political party or candidate. The election
1.22 judges or other individuals who assist the voter shall not reveal to anyone the name of any
1.23 candidate for whom the voter has voted or anything that took place while assisting the voter.