

A bill for an act
relating to elections; expanding requirements for postsecondary institutions to
report resident student information to the secretary of state for voter registration
purposes; requiring enhanced access to voter registration records and records of
returned absentee ballots on the World Wide Web; amending Minnesota Statutes
2008, sections 135A.17, subdivision 2; 201.061, subdivisions 1, 3; 201.071,
subdivision 1; 201.091, by adding a subdivision; 203B.08, subdivision 3.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 135A.17, subdivision 2, is amended to
read:

Subd. 2. **Residential housing list.** All postsecondary institutions that enroll
students accepting state or federal financial aid ~~may~~ must prepare a current list of students
enrolled in the institution and residing ~~in the institution's housing or within ten miles~~
~~of the institution's campus~~ Minnesota. The list ~~shall~~ must include each student's name,
current address, and student identification number. The list ~~shall~~ must be certified and
sent to the ~~appropriate county auditor or auditors~~ secretary of state no earlier than 30 and
no later than 25 days prior to the November general election, in an electronic format
specified by the secretary of state, for use in election day registration as provided under
section 201.061, subdivision 3. The certification must be dated and signed by the chief
officer or designee of the postsecondary educational institution and must state that the list
is current and accurate and includes only the names of currently enrolled students residing
in Minnesota as of the date of certification. The secretary of state must combine the data
received from each postsecondary educational institution under this subdivision and must
process the data to locate the precinct in which the address provided for each student is
located. If the data submitted by the postsecondary educational institution is insufficient

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for the secretary of state to locate the proper precinct, the associated student name must not appear in any list forwarded to a county auditor under this subdivision.

At least 14 days prior to the November general election, the secretary of state must forward to the appropriate county auditor lists of students containing the students' names and addresses for which precinct determinations have been made along with their postsecondary educational institutions. The list must be sorted by precinct and student last name and must be forwarded in an electronic format specified by the secretary of state or other mutually agreed upon medium, if a written agreement specifying the medium is signed by the secretary of state and the county auditor at least 90 days before the November general election. A written agreement is effective for all elections until rescinded by either the secretary of state or the county auditor.

A residential housing list provided under this subdivision may not be used or disseminated by a county auditor or the secretary of state for any other purpose.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 201.061, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Prior to election day.** At any time except during the 20 days immediately preceding any regularly scheduled election, an eligible voter or any individual who will be an eligible voter at the time of the next election may register to vote in the precinct in which the voter maintains residence by completing a voter registration application as described in section 201.071, subdivision 1, and submitting it in person or by mail to the county auditor of that county or to the Secretary of State's Office. If the Web site maintained by the secretary of state provides a process for it, an individual who has a Minnesota driver's license, identification card, or learner's permit may register online.

A registration that is received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 21st day preceding any election shall be accepted. An improperly addressed or delivered registration application shall be forwarded within two working days after receipt to the county auditor of the county where the voter maintains residence. A state or local agency or an individual that accepts completed voter registration applications from a voter must submit the completed applications to the secretary of state or the appropriate county auditor within ten days after the applications are dated by the voter.

For purposes of this section, mail registration is defined as a voter registration application delivered to the secretary of state, county auditor, or municipal clerk by the United States Postal Service or a commercial carrier.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 201.061, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Election day registration.** (a) An individual who is eligible to vote may register on election day by appearing in person at the polling place for the precinct in which the individual maintains residence, by completing a registration application, making an oath in the form prescribed by the secretary of state and providing proof of residence.

An individual may prove residence for purposes of registering by:

(1) presenting a driver's license or Minnesota identification card issued pursuant to section 171.07;

(2) presenting any document approved by the secretary of state as proper identification;

(3) presenting one of the following:

(i) a current valid student identification card from a postsecondary educational institution in Minnesota, if a list of students from that institution has been prepared under section 135A.17 ~~and certified to the county auditor in the manner provided in rules of the secretary of state~~; or

(ii) a current student fee statement that contains the student's valid address in the precinct together with a picture identification card; or

(4) having a voter who is registered to vote in the precinct, or who is an employee employed by and working in a residential facility in the precinct and vouching for a resident in the facility, sign an oath in the presence of the election judge vouching that the voter or employee personally knows that the individual is a resident of the precinct. A voter who has been vouched for on election day may not sign a proof of residence oath vouching for any other individual on that election day. A voter who is registered to vote in the precinct may sign up to 15 proof-of-residence oaths on any election day. This limitation does not apply to an employee of a residential facility described in this clause. The secretary of state shall provide a form for election judges to use in recording the number of individuals for whom a voter signs proof-of-residence oaths on election day. The form must include space for the maximum number of individuals for whom a voter may sign proof-of-residence oaths. For each proof-of-residence oath, the form must include a statement that the voter is registered to vote in the precinct, personally knows that the individual is a resident of the precinct, and is making the statement on oath. The form must include a space for the voter's printed name, signature, telephone number, and address.

The oath required by this subdivision and Minnesota Rules, part 8200.9939, must be attached to the voter registration application.

(b) The operator of a residential facility shall prepare a list of the names of its employees currently working in the residential facility and the address of the residential

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facility. The operator shall certify the list and provide it to the appropriate county auditor no less than 20 days before each election for use in election day registration.

(c) "Residential facility" means transitional housing as defined in section 256E.33, subdivision 1; a supervised living facility licensed by the commissioner of health under section 144.50, subdivision 6; a nursing home as defined in section 144A.01, subdivision 5; a residence registered with the commissioner of health as a housing with services establishment as defined in section 144D.01, subdivision 4; a veterans home operated by the board of directors of the Minnesota Veterans Homes under chapter 198; a residence licensed by the commissioner of human services to provide a residential program as defined in section 245A.02, subdivision 14; a residential facility for persons with a developmental disability licensed by the commissioner of human services under section 252.28; group residential housing as defined in section 256I.03, subdivision 3; a shelter for battered women as defined in section 611A.37, subdivision 4; or a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter or dwelling designed to provide temporary living accommodations for the homeless.

(d) For tribal band members, an individual may prove residence for purposes of registering by:

(1) presenting an identification card issued by the tribal government of a tribe recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States Department of the Interior, that contains the name, address, signature, and picture of the individual; or

(2) presenting an identification card issued by the tribal government of a tribe recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States Department of the Interior, that contains the name, signature, and picture of the individual and also presenting one of the documents listed in Minnesota Rules, part 8200.5100, subpart 2, item B.

(e) A county, school district, or municipality may require that an election judge responsible for election day registration initial each completed registration application.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 201.071, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Form.** A voter registration application must ~~be of suitable size and weight for mailing and~~ contain spaces for the following required information: voter's first name, middle name, and last name; voter's previous name, if any; voter's current address; voter's previous address, if any; voter's date of birth; voter's municipality and county of residence; voter's telephone number, if provided by the voter; date of registration; current and valid Minnesota driver's license number or Minnesota state identification number, or if the voter has no current and valid Minnesota driver's license or Minnesota state identification, and the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number, ~~and voter's~~

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signature. The registration application may include the voter's e-mail address, if provided by the voter, and the voter's interest in serving as an election judge, if indicated by the voter. The application must also contain the following certification of voter eligibility:

"I certify that I:

(1) will be at least 18 years old on election day;

(2) am a citizen of the United States;

(3) will have resided in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding election day;

(4) maintain residence at the address given on the registration form;

(5) am not under court-ordered guardianship in which the court order revokes my right to vote;

(6) have not been found by a court to be legally incompetent to vote;

(7) have the right to vote because, if I have been convicted of a felony, my felony sentence has expired (been completed) or I have been discharged from my sentence; and

(8) have read and understand the following statement: that giving false information is a felony punishable by not more than five years imprisonment or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both."

The certification must include boxes for the voter to respond to the following questions:

"(1) Are you a citizen of the United States?" and

"(2) Will you be 18 years old on or before election day?"

And the instruction:

"If you checked 'no' to either of these questions, do not complete this form."

The form of the voter registration application and the certification of voter eligibility must be as provided in this subdivision and approved by the secretary of state. Voter registration forms authorized by the National Voter Registration Act must also be accepted as valid. The federal postcard application form must also be accepted as valid if it is not deficient and the voter is eligible to register in Minnesota.

An individual may use a voter registration application to apply to register to vote in Minnesota or to change information on an existing registration.

A paper voter registration application must include space for the voter's signature. Paper voter registration applications, other than those used for election day registration, must be of suitable size and weight for mailing.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 201.091, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

6.1 Subd. 5a. **Registration confirmation to registered voter.** The secretary of state
6.2 must ensure that the secretary of state's Web site is capable of providing voter registration
6.3 confirmation to a registered voter. An individual requesting registration confirmation must
6.4 provide the individual's name, address, and date of birth. If the information provided by
6.5 the individual completely matches an active voter record in the statewide voter registration
6.6 system, the Web site must inform the individual that the individual is a registered voter and
6.7 must provide the individual with the individual's polling place location. If the information
6.8 provided by the individual does not completely match an active voter record in the
6.9 statewide voter registration system, the Web site must inform the individual that a voter
6.10 record with that name and date of birth at the address provided cannot be confirmed and the
6.11 Web site must advise the individual to contact the county auditor for further information.

6.12 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 203B.08, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

6.13 **Subd. 3. Procedures on receipt of ballots.** When absentee ballots are returned
6.14 to a county auditor or municipal clerk, that official shall stamp or initial and date the
6.15 return envelope and place it in a secure location with other return envelopes received by
6.16 that office. The county auditor or municipal clerk shall then enter sufficient identifying
6.17 information about the return envelope on a searchable database available on the World
6.18 Wide Web in a manner that allows the voter casting the absentee ballot to determine that it
6.19 has been received as required by this subdivision. The county auditor or municipal clerk
6.20 shall deliver to the appropriate election judges on election day all ballots received before
6.21 or with the last mail delivery by the United States Postal Service on election day. A town
6.22 clerk may request the United States Postal Service to deliver absentee ballots to the polling
6.23 place on election day instead of to the official address of the town clerk.