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State of Minnesota

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FIFTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. **1546**

March 1, 2007

Authored by Simon, Winkler, Howes, Haws, Pelowski and others

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology and Elections

March 15, 2007

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass as Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Finance

March 3, 2008

By motion, recalled and re-referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology and Elections

March 6, 2008

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass as Amended

Read Second Time

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to elections; providing for verification of certain address changes;
1.3 making conforming procedural changes; amending Minnesota Statutes 2006,
1.4 sections 201.12; 201.13, subdivision 3.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 201.12, is amended to read:

1.7 **201.12 PROPER REGISTRATION; VERIFICATION BY MAIL;**
1.8 **CHALLENGES.**

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Notice of registration.** To prevent fraudulent voting and to eliminate
1.10 excess names, the county auditor may mail to any registered voter a notice stating the
1.11 voter's name and address as they appear in the registration files. The notice shall request
1.12 the voter to notify the county auditor if there is any mistake in the information.

1.13 Subd. 2. ~~Challenges Moved within state. Upon return of any nonforwardable~~
1.14 ~~mailing from an election official, the county auditor or the auditor's staff shall ascertain~~
1.15 ~~the name and address of that individual. If the individual is no longer at the address~~
1.16 ~~recorded in the statewide registration system~~ If any nonforwardable mailing from an
1.17 election official is returned as undeliverable but with a permanent forwarding address in
1.18 this state, the county auditor may change the voter's status to inactive in the statewide
1.19 voter registration system and shall notify the auditor of the county in which the new
1.20 address is located. Upon receipt of the notice, the county auditor shall update the voter's
1.21 address in the statewide voter registration system and mail to the voter a notice indicating
1.22 the voter's name, address, precinct, and polling place. The notice must advise the voter
1.23 that the voter's voting address has been changed and that the voter must notify the county

2.1 auditor within 21 days if the new address is not the voter's address of residence. The notice
2.2 must state that it must be returned if it is not deliverable to the voter at the named address.

2.3 Subd. 3. **Moved out of state.** If any nonforwardable mailing from an election
2.4 official is returned as undeliverable but with a permanent forwarding address outside of
2.5 this state, the county auditor shall promptly mail to the voter at the voter's new address a
2.6 notice advising the voter that the voter's status in the statewide registration system will be
2.7 changed to "inactive" unless the voter notifies the county auditor within 21 days that the
2.8 voter is retaining the former address as the voter's address of residence. If the notice is not
2.9 received by the deadline, the county auditor shall change the voter's status to "inactive" in
2.10 the statewide registration system.

2.11 Subd. 4. **Challenges.** If any nonforwardable mailing from an election official is
2.12 returned as undeliverable but with no forwarding address, the county auditor shall change
2.13 the registrant's status to "challenged" in the statewide registration system. An individual
2.14 challenged in accordance with this subdivision shall comply with the provisions of section
2.15 204C.12, before being allowed to vote. If a notice mailed at least 60 days after the return of
2.16 the first nonforwardable mailing is also returned by the postal service, the county auditor
2.17 shall change the registrant's status to "inactive" in the statewide registration system.

2.18 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 201.13, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

2.19 Subd. 3. **Use of change of address system.** ~~The county auditor may delete the~~
2.20 ~~records in the statewide registration system of voters whose change of address can be~~
2.21 ~~confirmed by the United States Postal Service. The secretary of state may provide the~~
2.22 ~~county auditors with periodic reports on voters whose change of address can be confirmed~~
2.23 ~~by the United States Postal Service.~~ (a) At least once each month the secretary of state
2.24 shall obtain a list of individuals in this state who have filed with the United States Postal
2.25 Service a change of their permanent address. If an individual is registered as a voter in
2.26 the statewide registration system and the address is changed to another address in this
2.27 state, the secretary of state shall transmit the information about the changed address by
2.28 electronic means to the county auditor of the county in which the new address is located.
2.29 Upon receipt of the information, the county auditor shall update the voter's address in the
2.30 statewide registration system and mail to the voter a notice stating the individual's name,
2.31 address, precinct, and polling place. The notice must advise the voter that the voter's
2.32 voting address has been changed and that the voter must notify the county auditor within
2.33 21 days if the new address is not the voter's address of residence. The notice must state
2.34 that it must be returned if it is not deliverable to the voter at the named address.

3.1 (b) If the change of permanent address is to an address outside of this state, the
3.2 secretary of state shall notify by electronic means the auditor of the county where the
3.3 voter formerly resided that the voter has moved to another state. The county auditor
3.4 shall promptly mail to the voter at the voter's new address a notice advising the voter
3.5 that the voter's status in the statewide registration system will be changed to "inactive"
3.6 unless the voter notifies the county auditor within 21 days that the voter is retaining the
3.7 former address as the voter's address of residence. If the notice is not received by the
3.8 deadline, the county auditor shall change the voter's status to "inactive" in the statewide
3.9 registration system.

3.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This act is effective the day following final enactment but
3.11 not until the secretary of state has certified that the statewide voter registration system
3.12 has been tested and shown to accurately update voters' records and properly prepare
3.13 the appropriate notices to voters.