

Subject Voter Assistance
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Overview

Under current law, a voter who needs assistance with their election ballot due to an inability to read English or a physical disability is entitled to ask for help. The voter can seek assistance from the election judges, or from any other person of the voter's choice. A voter may also use accessible voting equipment to mark the ballot. Access to assistance is a requirement of both state and federal law.

Since at least 1959, Minnesota law has contained a limitation on assistors: a person who provides assistance marking a ballot may assist no more than three voters at any one election. Candidates at the election are also prohibited from providing assistance, as are representatives of the voter's employer or union.

This bill eliminates the three-voter limitation on assistors. This change would allow a qualified person to provide help to any voter who asks for it, without concern about the number of other voters that person may have assisted at the same election.

Other numerical limits in election law—including limits on the number of persons for whom a voter can vouch at an election (eight), and the number of absentee ballots that may be returned by an agent acting on behalf of a voter (three)—remain unchanged.

Two other states have a limitation on the number of voters a person may assist at an election. In Arkansas, a person may assist no more than six voters; in Georgia, a person may assist no more than ten voters at a state or local election.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Physical assistance in marking ballots. Eliminates the three-voter limit on persons providing assistance to a voter in marking a ballot at any one election.



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