

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 227

DATE: March 10, 2004

Version: As introduced

Authors: Ellison and others

Subject: Restoring voter eligibility to non-incarcerated felons

Analyst: Deborah K. McKnight (651-296-5056)

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

The state constitution provides for a convicted felon to regain the right to vote upon being restored to civil rights. Current law defines restoration as occurring after a person is fully discharged from incarceration and any supervised release. The bill would allow an individual to vote while on supervised release.

Section

- 1** **Not eligible.** Amends the voter eligibility statute. Allows an individual convicted of treason or a felony to vote (1) after completing any period of incarceration, or (2) while and after the person is on supervised release.

Under current law, a convicted felon cannot vote until completing all probation, parole, or other supervised release.
- 2** **Restoration.** Amends the statute on minors prosecuted as adults. Requires the commissioner of corrections to file an order with the district court indicating when a convicted person has been restored to the right to vote as provided by section 1.
- 3** **Restoration; vote and hold office .** Amends the statute on adult felons; same as section 2.
- 4** **Certain convicted felons ineligible to possess firearms.** Technical amendment to the law on possession of firearms after conviction of a crime of violence. Conforms to sections 1 to 3.
- 5** **Violation and penalty.** Same as section 4.