

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 491  
**Version:** As introduced

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**Subject:** Restoration of Civil Rights

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### Overview

This bill restores a person's right to vote upon release from incarceration.

#### Section

- 1** **Felony conviction; restoration of civil rights.** Provides that an individual convicted of a felony is eligible to vote as soon as the individual completes any incarceration imposed and executed by the court for the offense. If the individual is later incarcerated for the same offense, the individual's eligibility to vote is lost only during the period of incarceration. Specifies that a person convicted of a felony, but not incarcerated, never loses his civil rights.
- 2** **Form.** Makes a conforming amendment that changes the voter registration application requirements to reflect the right of felons who have completed their term of incarceration to vote.
- 3** **Report of felony convictions.** Requires the state court administrator's office to include in its monthly report to the secretary of state only the names and sentencing data of those felons who were sentenced to a period of incarceration.
- 4** **Duties of secretary of state; information about voting rights.** Requires the secretary of state to develop an electronic publication with complete and accurate information about the voting rights of people who have been charged with or convicted of a crime. The publication must be made available to the state court administrator for distribution to judges, court personnel, probation officers, and the Department of Corrections for distribution to corrections officials and the public.
- 5** **Voter's bill of rights.** Makes a conforming amendment to the Voter's Bill of Rights notifying the public that individuals have the right to vote even if they have been convicted

**Section**

of a felony, so long as they have completed their term of imprisonment for the offense.

**6 Permanent registration; verification of registration.** Makes a conforming amendment regarding polling place registration.

**7 Notice of restoration of right to vote.**

**Subd. 1. Correctional facilities; designation of official.** Requires the chief executive officer of each state and local correctional facility to designate an official within the facility to provide the notice and application required under this section to inmates who have been restored to civil rights.

**Subd. 2. Notice requirement.** Requires notice of the restoration of civil rights and a voter registration application be provided to inmates being released from a correctional facility following incarceration for a felony-level offense. Requires probation officers and supervised release agents to provide the notice and application for all offenders under correctional supervision for a felony offense.

**Subd. 3. Form of notice.** Stipulates the form and content of the notice of the restoration of civil rights.

**Subd. 4. Failure to provide notice.** Provides that failure to provide notice as required by this section does not prevent the restoration of the person's civil rights.

**8 Restoration.** Makes a conforming amendment regarding the restoration of civil rights for persons convicted of a disqualifying crime.