

File Number: H.F. 951
Version: First engrossment

Date: March 22, 2018

Authors: Dehn and others

Subject: Restoration of civil right to vote

Analyst: Ben Johnson (651-296-8957)

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

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

Section

- 1** **Felony conviction; restoration of civil right to vote.** 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.
- 2** **Form.** Makes a conforming amendment that changes the voter registration application requirements to reflect the right of felons to vote if they are not currently incarcerated.
- 3** **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.
- 4** **Permanent registration; verification of registration.** Makes a conforming amendment to the polling place roster or voter signature certificate to reflect the right of felons to vote if they are not currently incarcerated.
- 5** **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

Section

within the facility to provide the notice and application required under this section to inmates who have had their civil right to vote restored by reason of release from incarceration.

Subd. 2. Notice requirement. Requires notice of the restoration of the civil right to vote 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 the civil right to vote.

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 right to vote.

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