



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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HOMELESS VOTER REGISTRATION

House Bill 4369

Sponsor: Rep. Maxine Berman

Committee: Elections

Complete to 4-29-91

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4369 AS INTRODUCED 2-26-91

The bill would amend the Michigan Election Law to allow a person who is homeless to declare on a voter registration affidavit or application the place where he or she resides and the address of a shelter with which he or she has an established relationship and that accepts first class nonforwardable mail for the homeless person. The homeless person would be considered to be a resident of the township, city, or village that he or she declares as the place of residence. The forms for registration affidavits and applications would have to accommodate a homeless person's place of residence and a shelter address.

The term "shelter" would apply only to a nonprofit shelter that operates residential programs, that allows homeless people to establish a relationship making the shelter their primary residential address, and that accepts first class nonforwardable mail for them.

NOTE: The Michigan Election Law defines the term "residence" for registration and voting purposes as "that place at which a person habitually sleeps, keeps his or her personal effects and has a regular place of lodging." (MCL 168.11) The election law says that to register to vote, a person "shall be a citizen of the United States; not less than 18 years of age; a resident of the state for not less than 30 days; and a resident of the township, city, or village on or before the thirtieth day before the next regular or special election or primary election."

MCL 168.942