



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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HOMELESS VOTER REGISTRATION

House Bill 4530

Sponsor: Rep. Maxine Berman

Committee: Local Government

Complete to 5-14-93

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4530 AS INTRODUCED 3-23-93

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.")

The bill also would strike obsolete language from the act that required each person who registered to vote to declare a party preference and meet certain other criteria in order to be qualified to vote in the last presidential primary election.

MCL 168.942

House Bill 4530 (5-14-93)