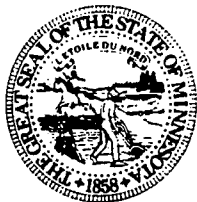


*Done
5/20*



STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
130 STATE CAPITOL
SAINT PAUL 55155

ARNE H. CARLSON
GOVERNOR

May 19, 1997

The Honorable Allan Spear
President of the Senate
120 Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear President Spear:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 167, Senate File 73, a bill to establish a change of address system by the Secretary of State's office.

Increasing the accuracy of voting records -- one of the stated goals of the bill's authors -- is certainly a desired outcome, but the process established in this bill does not adequately consider the potential problems associated with doing so. Where a person receives their mail is not necessarily where they reside and vote. Establishing the residence of thousands of potential voters is a culmination of many factors that may not always be reflected by an automatic process for registration. The unintended outcome of this process may actually be more confusion on the part of the electorate, in which case the status quo is certainly preferable.

Voting is still a responsibility and a right best left to the voters themselves. Initiating a change of address is also a task for responsible citizens, not the Secretary of State's office or the U.S. Postal Service. Promoting efficiency and accuracy within the electoral system is best accomplished the way it has always been -- letting those who exercise their right to vote to register in their new precinct.

Warmest regards,

ARNE H. CARLSON
Governor

- c: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
- Senator Dean Johnson, Minority Leader
- Representative Phil Carruthers, Speaker of the House
- Representative Steve Sviggum, Minority Leader
- Chief Senate Author(s)
- Chief House Author(s)
- Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
- Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
- Ms. Joan Anderson Growe, Secretary of State