HOUSE RESEARCH :

Bill Summary =

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 545 DATE: April 2, 2009

Version: Second engrossment

Authors: Champion and others

Subject: Notice of restoration of civil rights

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Overview

This bill requires notice to individuals about the status of their civil rights, including the right to vote, upon being charged with a felony-level offense, and upon discharge from a sentence served as a result of a felony-level offense.

Section

- **Duties of secretary of state.** Requires the secretary of state to develop a publication on the voting rights of people who have been charged with or convicted of a crime. The publication must be made available electronically for distribution to judicial and corrections officials.
- Notice of restoration of voting rights. Requires that a notice be provided to an individual upon restoration of their civil rights. The chief executive officer of a correctional institution, or a probation or supervised release agent must provide the notice, as appropriate. A voter registration application may also be provided.

The form of the notice is provided in the bill. Failure to provide a notice does not prevent restoration of an individual's civil rights.

Notice to defendant. Requires that a defendant charged with a felony be notified at the time of arraignment that a guilty plea or conviction of the offense will result in the loss of the defendant's civil rights, including the right to vote, until the sentence for the crime is discharged.