

**2021 House State Government Finance Omnibus Policy Tracking**  
**HF 1952, First Engrossment (H1952-1)**

Topic	Summary	Section Reference
<b>Article 1: State Government Appropriations</b>		
<b>Appropriations</b>	Appropriations and riders for various agencies within the accounts managed by the state government finance and elections committee are described in the fiscal spreadsheet.	1-35, 40
<b>Sensory Accessibility Accommodations Grants</b>	Appropriates funds to the Minnesota Council on Disability for sensory accessibility accommodations grants. The grant program is established in article 2.	36
<b>State Parking Account</b>	Exempts the state parking account from making a required annual transfer for fiscal years 2021 and 2022	37
<b>Fiscal Cancellations</b>	Provides cancellations of unspent funds from a number of appropriations and accounts.	38-40
<b>Article 2: State Government Policy</b>		
<b>State Fire Museum</b>	Designates the Bill and Bonnie Daniels Firefighters Hall and Museum as the official State Fire Museum.	1
<b>Legislative Reference Library</b>	Authorizes the Legislative Reference Library to receive copies of state documents at no cost to the legislature or library.	2
<b>Legislative Coordinating Commission</b>	Provides a technical update to clarify the LCC’s authority to coordinate the activities of the joint legislative commissions, committees, offices, and task forces.	3
<b>Office of the Legislative Auditor</b>	Provides a number of administrative and technical updates to the laws governing the work of the Office of the Legislative Auditor	4-9, 48
<b>Department of Administration</b>	Provides a number of updates and changes to the laws governing the work of the Department of Administration.	10, 11, 17, 19-24, 27-37, 42, 44, 47, 48

Topic	Summary	Section Reference
<b>Tribal Government Relationship</b>	Codifies an executive order recognizing the legal relationship between Tribal Nations and the state of Minnesota. State agencies are required to engage and be guided by a meaningful and timely consultation process with Tribal governments on relevant aspects of the agency work.	12
<b>Single Source Audit</b>	Requires MMB to contract with a qualified auditor to conduct an annual audit of the state's use of federal grant funds. This audit is a requirement of federal law, and is currently conducted by the Office of the Legislative Auditor.	13
<b>November Budget Forecast</b>	Requires the annual November state budget forecast to be released by December 6, rather than by the end of the first week in December.	14
<b>Positive General Fund Balances</b>	Eliminates now-obsolete language regarding the transfer of certain surplus funds at the end of a biennium to the Clean Water Fund.	15
<b>Virtual Payments</b>	Authorizes the commissioner of management and budget to establish a virtual payments program, which would permit state payments to vendors to be made through an electronic credit rather than a traditional check.	16
<b>Capitol Flag Program</b>	Establishes a program to provide a U.S. and Minnesota state flag flown over the state capitol to the families of public safety officers killed in the line of duty and to families of military members who died while in active service.	18
<b>Grants Administration</b>	Provides statutory authorization for state agencies to retain a portion of an appropriation made to provide grants to support the administrative costs associated with the grant program. The amount that may be retained depends on the type of grant being administered.	25
<b>Health Insurance Benefit Plans</b>	Shifts the commissioner of management and budget's duty to provide an option for a high-deductible health plan to certain employee groups so that it is permissive, rather than mandatory.	26
<b>Federal Tax Information; Background Checks</b>	Establishes a background check procedure necessary to comply with requirements related to accessing federal tax information by agency employees and others with access to the information.	38, 40, 43
<b>Taxpayer Assistance Grants</b>	Modifies the eligibility requirements governing grantmaking to organizations providing voluntary income tax preparation services. The modification aligns with a standard provided in federal law.	39

Topic	Summary	Section Reference
<b>Gambling Control Board Membership</b>	Permits members of the Gambling Control Board to remain in their position until a successor is appointed, unless the appointing authority directs otherwise.	41
<b>Racial Equity Impact Assessment Working Group</b>	Establishes a working group to make recommendations for creating a racial equity impact note for proposed legislation. A report is due February 1, 2022, and the group expires September 1, 2023.	44
<b>Sensory Accessibility Accommodations Grants</b>	Requires the Department of Administration, Office of Grants Management, to award grants to support building modifications and other accommodations for individuals with autism spectrum disorder or other disabilities or health issues with sensory impacts. Consultation with the Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities is required.	45
<b>Check or Debit Card for Gambling Purchases</b>	Provides that, during a telephone conversation by a person seeking to purchase a raffle ticket, an organization can accept payment by check or debit card provided the debit card is checked against a nationally recognized database of bank identification numbers that confirms the card is a debit card. This section is effective the day following final enactment and expires July 1, 2022.	46
<b>Employee gainsharing</b>	Repeals an existing requirement that the commissioner of management and budget administer an employee gainsharing program, to reward state employees who make suggestions that lead to documented cost savings to state government.	48
<b>Interagency agreements and transfers</b>	Repeals a section of statute that obligates agency heads to provide reports to the legislature for certain types of interagency agreements, and for appropriation transfers within or between agencies.	48
<b>Article 3: Elections Administration</b>		
<b>Help America Vote Act</b>	<p>Provides a permanent statutory appropriation of money in the state’s Help America Vote Act (HAVA) account to the secretary of state, to be used for purposes authorized by federal law.</p> <p>Under current law, HAVA funds must be separately appropriated to the secretary of state by the legislature before they may be spent. This bill would allow the secretary of state access to the funds without the need for legislative action. Restrictions on how the funds may be used would remain unchanged.</p> <p>An extension of the availability of currently appropriated HAVA funds is provided later in this article.</p>	1

Topic	Summary	Section Reference
<b>Miscellaneous Elections Administration</b>	Provides a number of miscellaneous update and changes to the general laws governing the administration of elections. Among the changes are an extension of the time period during which absentee ballots may be opened and counted before an election, elimination of the three-person limit on the number of voters a person can assist on election day, and extension of the availability of previously-appropriated HAVA funds.	2, 7-14, 16, 18, 21-35, 37-44, 46-50, 52-74, 76-79, 82, 85-88, 90-91
<b>Voter Intimidation</b>	Provides civil and criminal remedies related to voter intimidation, interference, and deceptive practices in elections, including the authority for enforcement by the Attorney General.	3, 80-81, 83
<b>Automatic Voter Registration</b>	Establishes procedures to facilitate voter registration by individuals when engaging in certain transactions with government, including at the time of application for a new or renewed driver's license or state identification card.	4, 15, 17
<b>Student Housing Lists (Voter Registration)</b>	Requires postsecondary institutions that enroll students accepting state financial aid to prepare a current list of students enrolled and residing in the institution's housing or within ten miles of campus.	5
<b>Restoration of Voting Rights</b>	Restores the right to vote to individuals convicted of a felony at the time any period of incarceration imposed for the conviction is complete.  Certain notices and other procedures are required.	6, 7, 19, 51, 84, 89
<b>Improper use of Political Party Name</b>	Permits a political party to protect against the improper use of the party's name by a candidate through the existing "errors and omissions" petition process.	20, 45
<b>Translated Voting Instructions for In-person Absentee Voters</b>	Requires the secretary of state to prepare voting instructions in languages other than English for in-person absentee voters. Materials in the Spanish, Hmong, and Somali languages are required.	28
<b>Confidentiality of Candidate's Residential Address</b>	Permits a candidate to request that their residential address be protected from public disclosure, based on a reasonable fear for the safety of the candidate or the candidate's family	36
<b>Student Trainee Election Judges</b>	Authorizes a school board to grant academic credit to students serving as a trainee election judges and requires the election judge appointing authorities to, when possible, recruit bilingual high school students to serve as trainee judges.	42, 43

Topic	Summary	Section Reference
<b>Election Security and Administration Grants</b>	Authorizes the secretary of state to disburse HAVA funds as grants to political subdivisions for certain federally-authorized purposes.	75
<b>Medical bill to Prove Residence</b>	Directs the secretary of state to adopt an administrative rule recognizing a medical bill as proof of residence for purposes of election day registration.	92
<b>Article 4: Campaign Finance</b>		
<b>Hennepin County Elections</b>	Transfers oversight of certain campaign finance reporting requirements for candidates and committees associated with certain elected offices and ballot questions in (1) Hennepin County, (2) any city located wholly within Hennepin County that has a population of 75,000 or more, and (3) the Minneapolis school district. Under current law, the Hennepin County elections administrator receives campaign finance-related reports. This bill instead places those responsibilities under the jurisdiction of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.	1-9, 11, 12, 19-26, 34, 35
<b>“Expressly advocating”</b>	<p>Expands the definition of “expressly advocating” to include certain types of communications that are susceptible of no reasonable interpretation except as a campaign-related communication, even if the communication doesn’t use the “magic words” of a campaign, such as a “vote for” or “vote against...”</p> <p>This definition is used to determine when the expenditures supporting a communication are subject to reporting and oversight by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.</p>	6
<b>Noncampaign Disbursement for Security Expenses</b>	<p>Authorizes a campaign to make an expenditure for specified security-related expenses for a candidate and any immediate family members of the candidate who live in the same household and report it as a “noncampaign disbursement,” with certain limitations.</p> <p>A noncampaign disbursement is an expenditure of campaign money that must be reported to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, but does count against a candidate’s spending limit.</p>	10
<b>Miscellaneous Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board</b>	Provides a number of miscellaneous changes and technical updates to the laws related to the filing of statements of economic interest and other laws administered by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.	13-18, 27-30, 35
<b>Independent Expenditure Disclosures</b>	Requires the disclaimer on independent expenditures to list the top three contributors responsible for funding the expenditure.	31

Topic	Summary	Section Reference
<b>Disclaimer on Electronic Communications</b>	Eliminates the disclaimer requirement on certain online banner ads and electronic advertisements, and instead directs the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board to adopt rules specifying the form and content of the required disclaimer for all types of small electronic communications on which a full disclaimer cannot be conveniently printed.	32, 33
<b>Article 5: Information Technology</b>		
<b>Legislative Commission on Cybersecurity</b>	Establishes a Legislative Commission on Cybersecurity. The commission is required to provide oversight related to the state’s cybersecurity measures, including review of the policies and practices of state agencies, and recommending changes to protect against cyber threats. The commission is also permitted to develop recommendations and draft legislation to support and strengthen the state’s cybersecurity infrastructure.	1, 17
<b>Miscellaneous MN.IT</b>	Provides a number of technical and miscellaneous changes to the laws governing the state’s IT services. Among them are a change in the legal name of Minnesota’s IT agency: from “Office of MN.IT Services” to the “Department of Information Technology Services.” Among these changes include those recommended by the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Council on IT Services, and other recommendations of a report by the Office of the Legislative Auditor.	2-16, 18, 19
<b>Article 6: Local Government Policy</b>		
<b>Open meeting law technological updates</b>	Updates various provisions of the open meeting law to reflect modern technology used for remote meetings of public bodies.	1-6
<b>Dedication fee; first class cities</b>	Authorizes cities of the first class to enact an ordinance requiring a portion of land to be dedicated to the public for parks, playgrounds, recreation, wetlands, trails, or open space, or to impose a dedication fee for such purposes on new construction. The first class cities that are impacted are Rochester and Duluth.	7, 21-22
<b>Nonprofit corporation creation authority</b>	Authorizes the Seaway Port Authority of Duluth to create a nonprofit corporation under chapter 317A.	8
<b>Inflow and infiltration prevention programs</b>	Authorizes towns or any political subdivision of the state with statutory sewer ownership or operational responsibilities to establish inflow and infiltration prevention programs.	9-10
<b>County competitive bidding</b>	Allows for county contracts up to \$750,000 to be made by sealed bids or direct negotiation with county certified small business enterprises or state certified small businesses that are majority-owned and operated by a veteran or a service-disabled veteran.	11

Topic	Summary	Section Reference
<b>Municipal hotel licensing</b>	Permits a city or town to adopt an ordinance requiring hotels in the municipality to have a municipal hotel license which requires compliance with state and local laws.	12
<b>Repeal of political subdivision compensation limit</b>	Repeals the compensation limit for political subdivision employees.	13, 23
<b>Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (DECC) updates</b>	Updates various special law provisions that authorized the DECC. Changes include amending language to be gender neutral, updating roles and titles, and increasing the threshold for required competitive bidding or required DECC authorizations of contracts to more than \$50,000.	14-20