

2021 State Government and Veterans and Military Affairs Omnibus Bill – HF 1952

5/10/21 Proposed Agreement on Same and Similar Items: Elections Policy

Topic	Same/Similar	Page Reference	Section(s)	Description
Military Members/Absentee Voting	Same	R21	House 22	Expands the definition of “military” for purposes of identifying members of the military who qualify for certain absentee voting procedures.
Absentee ballot application lists	Same	R22	House 26	Requires absentee ballot application lists to be available to the public in the same manner as public information lists on registered voters.
Ballot format for write-in candidates at special elections	Same	R36	House 45	Clarifies ballot formatting requirements for write-in candidates at special elections.
Notice of shorter voting hours at a polling place in a town	Same	R40	House 50, 51	Requires towns and unorganized territory to notify the secretary of state when establishing a later time for voting to begin at a state primary, special, or general election.
Delivery of election returns	Same	R48	House 55	Reduces the number of copies of precinct summary statements that must be delivered by the election judges from each precinct on election night.
State partisan primary ballot	Same	R53	House 60, 61	Specifies requirements for ballot formatting at a primary election when vacant offices are to be filled by special election.
Special elections prohibited on dates surrounding holidays	Same	R54	House 63	Prohibits special elections from being scheduled on certain dates surrounding a holiday.
Special election procedures	Same	R55	House 66, 67, 68	Modifies special election standards related to election contest procedures, and for special elections involving a vacancy in the office of United States Senator.
Obsolete reference; electronic voting systems contracts	Same	R58	House 72	Eliminates an obsolete cross-reference in a law governing contracts for electronic voting systems.
Combined local elections ballot format	Same	R60	House 75	Clarifies a law governing ballot formatting when both municipal and school district offices will appear on a combined ballot at an election held in an even-numbered year.
Obsolete reference; presidential nomination primary	Same	R63	House 79	Eliminates an obsolete reference to publicly-available information about a voter’s party choice at a presidential nomination primary.

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Oath of office for town officers	Same	R69	House 87	Clarifies procedures related to taking an oath of office for town officers elected at a special election.
Application of election laws to city council special elections	Same	R69	House 88	Clarifies that the Minnesota Election Law applies to special elections to fill a vacant city council seat.
Public lists of rejected absentee ballots	Similar, with technical drafting differences	R26	House 31	Directs release of information on rejected absentee ballots after the close of voting on election day.
Absentee ballot boards; signature envelopes	Same, but embedded among other policy differences	R27, R29	House 32, except for line 83.6 Senate 22, 23	Updates terminology related to absentee ballot envelopes.
Write-in Candidates	Similar, but embedded among policy differences	R32	Senate 24	Updates standards and procedure related to write-in candidates for certain offices.
Blank ballot presumption	Similar	R48	Senate 37	When counting all ballots in precinct, authorizes election judges to assume the total count of ballots in an unopened, prepackaged ballot set is correct. Sections are generally identical except that the Senate refers to “sealed” prepackaged ballots.
Publicly funded recounts	Similar	R51	House 59	Standards related to requests for a publicly-funded recount.
Acceptable performance by voting system	Similar, with policy differences	R59	Senate 55, 56	Specifies the standard of acceptable performance for a voting system’s accuracy.
Ballot format; presidential nomination primary	Similar, but embedded among other policy differences	R63	Senate 59	Clarifies ballot formatting requirements for the presidential nomination primary, so that only parties participating in the primary appear on the ballot.