

Subject Presidential nomination primary

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Date February 25, 2019

Overview

This bill requires that presidential nomination primaries be conducted entirely by mail. It also restricts access to a voter's political party choice. A voter's party choice would still be provided to the corresponding political party, but would not be publicly accessible by others.

In 2017, the legislature enacted a law providing for a presidential nomination primary beginning in 2020. The primary is scheduled to be conducted March 3, 2020.

Further detail about the presidential primary process established in existing law is described in the House Research Department publication "Minnesota's Presidential Nomination Primary," available online:

<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/mnpresprim.pdf>

Summary

Section	Description
1	Public information lists. Eliminates an existing requirement that the publicly-available list of voter registration information include the party choice of a voter who voted in the most recent presidential primary.
2	Separate precincts; combined polling place. Provides conforming changes to reflect the change in the presidential nomination primary to an all-mail election established later in the bill.
3	Boundary change procedure. Provides conforming changes to reflect the change in the presidential nomination primary to an all-mail election established later in the bill.
4	Polling place roster; voter signature certificate; voter receipt. Provides conforming changes to reflect the elimination of an existing requirement that each party's candidates be presented to voters on a separate ballot at the presidential

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5	<p data-bbox="355 268 1422 369">nomination primary. The statements that otherwise would have been certified by a voter under this section are instead transferred to the signature envelope of the mail ballot later in this bill.</p> <p data-bbox="355 426 902 453">Conducting presidential nomination primary.</p> <p data-bbox="355 470 1382 604">Requires the presidential nomination primary to be conducted consistent with the requirements of law for absentee and mail balloting. Polling place locations would be limited to the office of the county auditor, and any additional sites designated by each auditor.</p> <p data-bbox="355 642 1411 777">Ballots for the presidential nomination primary must be mailed, by nonforwardable mail, to each registered voter in a county no more than 46 days and no fewer than 14 days prior to the primary. A subsequent mailing is required for voters who register to vote after the initial mailing but before the 20th day prior to the primary.</p> <p data-bbox="355 814 1362 884">Voters not currently registered to vote at the time ballots are mailed may apply for a ballot consistent with the laws governing absentee voting.</p>
6	<p data-bbox="355 936 992 963">Form of ballots and envelopes; candidates on ballot.</p> <p data-bbox="355 980 1398 1081">Requires the candidates for president of all participating parties to be listed on a single presidential nomination primary ballot. The candidates of each party would be listed in separate columns on the ballot.</p> <p data-bbox="355 1119 1333 1146">Under current law, separate ballots must be prepared for each participating party.</p> <p data-bbox="355 1184 1414 1318">This section also requires the signature envelope included with each ballot to require the voter to indicate the party the voter wishes to vote for, and to certify the following statement: "I am in general agreement with the principles of the party for whose candidate I intend to vote."</p> <p data-bbox="355 1356 1317 1423">This language replaces an existing requirement for the voter to provide the same information, and that it be recorded on the polling place roster.</p>
7	<p data-bbox="355 1476 846 1503">Ballot board; party lists; primary results.</p> <p data-bbox="355 1520 1422 1587">Establishes procedures for reviewing presidential nomination primary ballots returned by a voter to the county auditor for counting.</p> <p data-bbox="453 1625 1406 1726">Subd. 1. Ballot board. Requires each county auditor to appoint a ballot board to accept and reject presidential nomination primary ballots in a process similar to that used for absentee ballots at other elections.</p> <p data-bbox="453 1764 1390 1860">A voter's selection of a party must be recorded on the polling place roster, but must not be included in the voter's history or on the publicly-available voter registration list. The signature envelope for a presidential nomination primary</p>

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	<p>ballot must be rejected if the voter did not select a party or voted for more than one party.</p> <p>If a signature envelope is accepted, it must be opened and the secrecy envelope containing the ballot must be placed on a pile that corresponds to the ballots for the party selected by the voter.</p> <p>Once opened, a ballot must be rejected if the ballot contains votes for more than one party, or if the party voted for does not correspond to the party's pile on which the ballot was placed (in other words, if the party voted for does not correspond with the party indicated by the voter on the signature envelope).</p> <p>Subd. 2. Party list. Requires the secretary of state to maintain a list of voters who voted in the presidential nomination primary and the party selected by each voter. The list is private data, but the secretary of state must provide a list to each major party participating in the presidential nomination primary that indicates the voters who voted for the party at the primary.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Results. Requires the secretary of state to notify the chair of each major political party of the results of the presidential nomination primary. The results must bind the election of delegates to each party's presidential nominating convention.</p>
8	<p>Notice of presidential nomination primary; sample ballots.</p> <p>Provides conforming changes to reflect the change in the presidential nomination primary to an all-mail election.</p>
9	<p>Reimbursable local expenses.</p> <p>Provides conforming changes to reflect the change in the presidential nomination primary to an all-mail election.</p> <p>This section also authorizes the secretary of state to approve reimbursements to local governments for certain expenses associated with the primary beyond those already authorized by law.</p>
10	<p>Effective date.</p> <p>Provides an effective date for the bill. The changes would apply to the 2020 presidential nomination primary and thereafter.</p>



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