

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

*Same and Similar Items: Elections Policy*

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Same/Similar</b>	<b>Page Reference</b>	<b>House Section(s)</b>	<b>Senate Section(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Sections that are the Same</b>					
<b>Military Members/Absentee Voting</b>	Same	R21	22	12	Expands the definition of “military” for purposes of identifying members of the military who qualify for certain absentee voting procedures.
<b>Absentee ballot application lists</b>	Same	R22	26	13	Requires absentee ballot application lists to be available to the public in the same manner as public information lists on registered voters.
<b>Ballot format for write-in candidates at special elections</b>	Same	R36	45	28	Clarifies ballot formatting requirements for write-in candidates at special elections.
<b>Notice of shorter voting hours at a polling place in a town</b>	Same	R40	50-51	30-31	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.
<b>Delivery of election returns</b>	Same	R48	55	39	Reduces the number of copies of precinct summary statements that must be delivered by the election judges from each precinct on election night.
<b>State partisan primary ballot</b>	Same	R53	60, 61	44, 45	Specifies requirements for ballot formatting at a primary election when vacant offices are to be filled by special election.
<b>Special elections prohibited on dates surrounding holidays</b>	Same	R54	63	46	Prohibits special elections from being scheduled on certain dates surrounding a holiday.
<b>Special election procedures</b>	Same	R55	66, 67, 68	47, 48, 49	Modifies special election standards related to election contest procedures, and for special elections involving a vacancy in the office of United States Senator.
<b>Obsolete reference; electronic voting systems contracts</b>	Same	R58	72	54	Eliminates an obsolete cross-reference in a law governing contracts for electronic voting systems.

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<b>Combined local elections ballot format</b>	Same	R60	75	57	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.
<b>Obsolete reference; presidential nomination primary</b>	Same	R63	79	60	Eliminates an obsolete reference to publicly-available information about a voter's party choice at a presidential nomination primary.
<b>Oath of office for town officers</b>	Same	R69	87	63	Clarifies procedures related to taking an oath of office for town officers elected at a special election.
<b>Application of election laws to city council special elections</b>	Same	R69	88	64	Clarifies that the Minnesota Election Law applies to special elections to fill a vacant city council seat.
<b>Sections that are Similar, but not Identical</b>					
<b>Postelection sampling reports</b>	Similar, with policy differences	R12	13	8	The House requires postelection sampling information to be reported to the secretary of state by February 15 of each odd-numbered year, for the previous state general election.  The Senate requires the information to be reported every year, for all elections held in the previous year.
<b>Public lists of rejected absentee ballots</b>	Similar, with technical drafting differences	R26	31	20	Directs release of information on rejected absentee ballots after the close of voting on election day.  Staff recommends House language.
<b>Absentee ballot boards; signature envelopes</b>	Same, but embedded among other policy differences	R27, R29	32, 34	21, 22	Updates terminology related to absentee ballot envelopes.  These sections are generally identical, except there are policy differences reflecting a House position on line 83.6 and 84.21, and a Senate position on lines 107.6-107.7.
<b>Absentee ballot boards; signature envelopes</b>	Similar	R29	36	23	Updates terminology related to absentee ballot envelopes.  Drafting differences related to terminology updates. Staff recommends Senate language.

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<b>Write-in Candidates</b>	Similar, but embedded among policy differences	R32	40	24	Updates standards and procedure related to write-in candidates for certain offices.  Sections are generally identical, except there is a policy difference reflecting a House position on line 88.18.
<b>Blank ballot presumption</b>	Similar	R48	54	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 there is a policy difference reflecting a House position on line 121.21, and the Senate refers to “sealed” prepackaged ballots.
<b>Publicly funded recounts</b>	Similar	R51	59	42	Standards related to requests for a publicly-funded recount.  The Senate includes a January 1, 2022 delayed effective date. The House does not specify an effective date.  Staff recommends House language.
<b>Acceptable performance by voting system</b>	Similar, with policy differences	R59	73, 74	55, 56	Policy differences between the two bodies regarding the standard of acceptable performance for a voting system’s accuracy.
<b>Ballot format; presidential nomination primary</b>	Similar, but embedded among other policy differences	R63	78	59	Clarifies ballot formatting requirements for the presidential nomination primary, so that only parties participating in the primary appear on the ballot.  The language is generally identical, except for a policy difference reflecting a House position on line 110.22.