

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

Items Adopted by the State Gov Conference Committee as of 5/15/2021

State Government Policy Article

Topic	Starting page	Section(s)	Description
<i>Sections that are the same in the House and Senate bills</i>			
Legislative Reference Library	R4-A2	House 3	Authorizes the Legislative Reference Library to receive copies of state documents at no cost to the legislature or library.
Legislative Coordinating Commission	R5-A2	House 4	Provides a technical update to clarify the LCC’s authority to coordinate the activities of the joint legislative commissions, committees, offices, and task forces.
Legislative Auditor	R6-A2 , R59-A2	House 6-10 On R59, senate sec. 110 para (a) only.	Provides a number of administrative and technical updates to the laws governing the work of the Office of the Legislative Auditor. Repeals 3.972, subd. 2c and 2d. The sections listed here do <i>not</i> include those where policy differences exist on topics related to the Legislative Auditor: Senate section 16 (statutory appropriation to OLA of money in data security account); and repeal of 3.9741, subd. 5 and 299D.03, subd. 2a. See OLA listing under “Items that are similar” for House section 5/Senate section 12, lines 27.26-27.28 (preclusion on employee running for office).
Virtual Payments	R22-A2	House 21	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.
Department of Administration; Building Responsibility	R23-A2	House 22	Modifies list of buildings for which the Department of Administration is responsible
Department of Administration; Obsolete duties	R28-A2	House 28	Eliminates obsolete duties, including references to the materials handling service and the state recycling center

Topic	Starting page	Section(s)	Description
Department of Administration; Motor Pools	R28-A2; R29-A2; R59-A2	House 29, 30, 60	Modifies descriptions and terminology related to vehicles in the state's motor pool, as managed by the commissioner of administration. Allows use of motor pool vehicles by the Department of Corrections inmate community work crews.
Historic Sites: Technical and Administration	R35-A2 to R39-A2	House 36, 37, 39, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45	Provides technical and administrative changes to the laws governing historic sites, including conforming changes to reflect the transfer of the State Historic Preservation Office to the Department of Administration. The sections listed here do <i>not</i> include those where policy differences exist on topics related to historic sites and agency process related to historic preservation.
Gambling Control Board	R48-A2	House 50	Permits members of the Gambling Control Board to remain in their positions until a successor is appointed, unless the appointing authority directs otherwise.
Sections that are Similar			
Topic	Starting Page	Section	Description
OLA	R5-A2	Senate section 12 as orally amended: on R6, senate side, page 27, line 28, delete " <u>an</u> " and insert " <u>a partisan</u> "	Updates certain staffing structures within the office of the legislative auditor, including a prohibition on employees of the legislative auditor from filing as a candidate for partisan elected public offices.
India Day	R12-A2	House section 16	Establishes August 15 each year as India Day.
Single Source Audit	R20-A2	Senate section 33	Transfers responsibility for conduct of annual audit on use of federal funds from the OLA to MMB.
Positive General Fund Balances	R20-A2	House section 20	Eliminates obsolete language regarding transfer of surplus funds to the Clean Water Fund.
Capitol Flag Program	R24-A2	Senate section 3	Establishes program to provide U.S. and Minnesota State Flag to certain public safety and military officers.

Topic	Starting page	Section(s)	Description
Canines Retired from State Service	R26-A2	Senate section 42	Allows commissioner of administration to transfer title to retired state service canines to their handlers.

Information Technology Article

Start Page	Topic	Section(s)	Summary
Rx			
R1-A5, R12-A5	Legislative Commission on Cybersecurity	Senate section 11, except for House language to resolve technical difference on line 26.9 Senate Section 102	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.
R2-A5 to R13-A5	Miscellaneous MN.IT	House sections 2-9 Senate section 53, with direction to staff to verify hyphenation of “ex officio” on line 53.14 Senate sections 54-57 House sections 15-16 House sections 18-19	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 the state’s IT agency as reflected in statute: from “Office of MN.IT Services” to “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.
N/A	Staff Direction Regarding Department Name	Throughout	Nonpartisan staff is directed to remove the word “Minnesota” wherever it appears in this article ahead of the newly established department name. The intended result is for the statutes to refer to the “Department of Information Technology Services” rather than the “Minnesota Department of Information Technology Services.” The authority adopted in House section 3 for the department to also be known as “Minnesota Information Technology Services” or “Minnesota IT Services” will remain unchanged.

Elections Administration Policy Article

Topic	Page Reference	Section(s)	Description
Military Members/Absentee Voting	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	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	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	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	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	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	R54	House 63	Prohibits special elections from being scheduled on certain dates surrounding a holiday.
Special election procedures	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	R58	House 72	Eliminates an obsolete cross-reference in a law governing contracts for electronic voting systems.
Combined local elections ballot format	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	R63	House 79	Eliminates an obsolete reference to publicly-available information about a voter’s party choice at a presidential nomination primary.

Topic	Page Reference	Section(s)	Description
Oath of office for town officers	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	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	R26	House 31	Directs release of information on rejected absentee ballots after the close of voting on election day.
Absentee ballot boards; signature envelopes	R27, R29	House 32, except for line 83.6 Senate 22, 23	Updates terminology related to absentee ballot envelopes.
Write-in Candidates	R32	Senate 24	Updates standards and procedure related to write-in candidates for certain offices.
Blank ballot presumption	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	R51	House 59	Standards related to requests for a publicly-funded recount.
Acceptable performance by voting system	R59	Senate 55, 56	Specifies the standard of acceptable performance for a voting system’s accuracy.
Ballot format; presidential nomination primary	R63	Senate 59	Clarifies ballot formatting requirements for the presidential nomination primary, so that only parties participating in the primary appear on the ballot.

Campaign Finance Article

Start Page	Topic	Section	Summary
Rx			
R1-R3, R5, R6, R10-R16, R21, R22	Hennepin County Elections	House sections 1-5; 7-9; 11; 12; 19-26; 34; 35, subd. 2. House section 6, only “ <u>or a local candidate</u> ” on line 121.25. House section 36 (effective date) attached to these sections.	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. These sections instead places those responsibilities under the jurisdiction of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.
R3	Noncampaign Disbursement for Security Expenses	Senate section 1	Authorizes a campaign to make an expenditure for specified security-related expenses for a candidate. The A \$3,000 cap for expenses is provided. The effective date applies this authorization to payments made on or after January 1, 2021.
R6	Public Official Definition; Minnesota State	House section 13	Adds the Chancellor and members of the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to the definition of “public official” under chapter 10A.
R7-R10	Statements of Economic Interest	House sections 14-18	Modifies and reorganizes requirements related to the filing of Statements of Economic Interest.
R12	Alternate Contact Information	Senate section 8	Authorizes a candidate; a treasurer of a political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit; or chair of a political committee, principal campaign committee, or party unit to provide alternate contact information that may be used for contacting the entity about chapter 10A filing issues.
R16, R17, R18, R22	Miscellaneous changes to filing requirements	House sections 27-29; 30; 35, subd. 1	Provides miscellaneous changes and updates to laws governing the filing of campaign reports, including standards for certain disclosures by unregistered associations, and when certain types of messages are not considered contributions to a candidate, when coordinated by a party unit.