

Subject Single Subject Rule

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Overview

This bill proposes a state constitutional amendment related to the “single subject rule.” The single subject rule is an existing requirement of the constitution that prohibits laws from containing “more than one subject.” Over time (but with a few exceptions) the Minnesota Supreme Court has generally deferred to the legislature’s judgment in determining a bill’s subject, as expressed in the bill’s title.

The amendment proposed by this bill would prohibit the legislature from amending the title of a bill after it has been introduced, unless the amendment to the title would narrow the bill’s scope. If a bill that enacts a portion of the state budget is found unconstitutional for violating the single subject requirement, the proposed amendment further provides that funding for those portions of the state budget are available at 95 percent of the funding provided in the prior biennium, until a later law is enacted.

The proposed constitutional amendment would be submitted to the voters for ratification at the 2020 state general election.