

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 288

SESSION: 2014 Regular Session

TOPIC: Electronic Rosters in Elections

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Overview

This act provides statutory authorization for jurisdictions to implement the use of electronic polling place rosters in elections. Standards and procedures for the use of electronic rosters are provided.

Section

Article 1: Electronic Roster Authorization

- 1 Electronic Roster Authorization.** Authorizes counties, municipalities, and school districts to use electronic rosters for any election.

Subd. 1. Authority. Authorizes the implementation of electronic rosters, in all or a portion of the precincts in the jurisdiction. Rosters must comply with the requirements of this section, and include information required by other law.

Subd. 2. Technology requirements. Sets minimum standards for the functionality of electronic roster equipment. Application of some requirements depends on the intended use of the roster.

Subd. 3. Minnesota election law, other law. Provides that all provisions of the Minnesota election law continue to apply to a precinct using electronic rosters. This includes provisions related to voters voting under the Safe at Home program and voters voting by absentee ballot.

Subd. 4. Election records retention. Specifies that all voter signature certificates and voter registration applications printed from an electronic roster must be retained

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on material that will continue to be legible for the retention required for other election records under current law. Data on election day registrants must be uploaded to the statewide voter registration system for processing by county auditors.

Subd. 5. Election day. Authorizes the use of electronic rosters for election day registration, to process preregistered voters, or both, and requires review of printed voter registration applications when the electronic records are processed in the statewide registration system. This subdivision also specifies the procedure for reconciling the number of ballots to be counted: the judges may count either the number of original voter signature certificates, or the number of voter receipts. A paper backup system is required in the event the election judges are unable to use the electronic roster.

Subd. 6. Reporting; certification; preelection testing. Requires a jurisdiction intending to use electronic rosters to notify the secretary of state at least 90 days before the first election at which the rosters will be used, and requires a certification that the electronic roster system will meet the requirements of this section at least 30 days before the election occurs.

- 2 Evaluation of electronic roster use; 2014 state general election.** Requires the secretary of state to evaluate the use of electronic rosters at the 2014 state general election and submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the appropriate legislative committees no later than April 1, 2015.
- 3 Effective date.** Provides that this article is effective the day following final enactment.

Article 2: Definitions and Conforming Changes

- 1 Polling place roster.** Establishes a definition of “polling place roster” to include electronic rosters.
- 2 Voter signature certificate.** Establishes a definition of “voter signature certificate.”
- 3 Procedures for polling place rosters.** Specifies that an electronic roster, together with the voter signature certificate, must include the same information as a paper polling place roster.
- 4 Separate precincts; combined polling place.** Provides that in combined polling places, the secretary of state must provide separate data files for each precinct using an electronic roster, instead of separate paper rosters.
- 5 Permanent registration; verification of registration.** Add references to voter signature certificates in the section on permanent registration and verification of registration.
- 6 Refusal to answer questions or sign a polling place roster.** Adds a reference to voter signature certificates in the section on challengers.

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- 7** **Signature on roster as evidence of intent.** Adds a reference to voter signature certificates in the section on use of signature on a roster as evidence of intent to vote.
- 8** **Soliciting near polling places.** Adds a reference to voter signature certificates in the section regulating solicitation near polling places.
- 9** **Effective date.** Provides that this article is effective the day following final enactment.