

# Chapter 39

2025 Regular Session

**Subject** State and Local Government

**Bill** S.F. 3045

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**Date** October 1, 2025

## Overview

This is the 2025 state government and elections finance and policy act. It appropriates money to the legislature, constitutional officers, and certain state agencies for fiscal years 2026 and 2027. It also makes various statutory changes as summarized in articles 2 to 8.

Governor Tim Walz signed this act into law on May 23, 2025. All sections take effect on July 1, 2025, unless otherwise specified.

## Article 1: State Government and Elections Appropriations

This article appropriates funding in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 to the legislature, constitutional officers, and specified state agencies and modifies certain existing appropriations.

### Section Description – Article 1: State Government and Elections Appropriations

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- 1 State government and elections appropriations.**  
Explains the effect of, and format for, this appropriations article.
- 2 Legislature.**  
Appropriates funding to the house, senate, and Legislative Coordinating Commission and specifies funding amounts for certain joint offices.
- 3 Governor and lieutenant governor.**  
Appropriates funding for the Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.
- 4 State auditor.**  
Appropriates funding to the state auditor.

**Section Description – Article 1: State Government and Elections Appropriations**

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- 5        **Attorney general.**  
          Appropriates funding to the attorney general.
- 6        **Secretary of state.**  
          Appropriates funding to the secretary of state.
- 7        **Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.**  
          Appropriates funding to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.
- 8        **State Board of Investment.**  
          Appropriates funding to the State Board of Investment.
- 9        **Administrative hearings.**  
          Appropriates funding to the Office of Administrative Hearings.
- 10       **Information technology services.**  
          Appropriates funding to Minnesota IT Services (MNIT).
- 11       **Administration.**  
          Appropriates funding to the Department of Administration, with amounts specified for certain purposes.
- 12       **Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board.**  
          Appropriates funding to the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board.
- 13       **Minnesota Management and Budget.**  
          Appropriates funding to the Department of Management and Budget, with amounts specified for certain purposes.
- 14       **Revenue.**  
          Appropriates funding to the Department of Revenue.
- 15       **Gambling control.**  
          Appropriates funding to the Gambling Control Board.
- 16       **Racing Commission.**  
          Appropriates funding to the Racing Commission.
- 17       **State Lottery.**  
          Appropriates funding to the State Lottery.

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- 18     **Amateur Sports Commission.**  
Appropriates funding to the Amateur Sports Commission.
- 19     **Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage.**  
Appropriates funding to the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage.
- 20     **Council on Latino Affairs.**  
Appropriates funding to the Council on Latino Affairs.
- 21     **Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans.**  
Appropriates funding to the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans.
- 22     **Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans.**  
Appropriates funding to the Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans.
- 23     **Indian Affairs Council.**  
Appropriates funding to the Indian Affairs Council.
- 24     **Minnesota Historical Society.**  
Appropriates funding to the Minnesota Historical Society, with amounts specified for certain purposes.
- 25     **Board of the Arts.**  
Appropriates funding to the Arts Board, with amounts specified for certain purposes.
- 26     **Minnesota Humanities Center.**  
Appropriates funding to the Humanities Center, with amounts specified for certain purposes.
- 27     **Board of Accountancy.**  
Appropriates funding to the Board of Accountancy.
- 28     **Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design.**  
Appropriates funding to the Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design.
- 29     **Board of Cosmetologist Examiners.**  
Appropriates funding to the Board of Cosmetologist Examiners.

**Section Description – Article 1: State Government and Elections Appropriations**

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- 30     **Board of Barber Examiners.**  
Appropriates funding to the Board of Barber Examiners.
- 31     **Children, youth, and families.**  
Appropriates funding to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families.
- 32     **General contingent accounts.**  
Appropriates money for unforeseen contingencies.
- 33     **Tort claims.**  
Appropriates funding for the payment of tort claims against the state.
- 34     **Minnesota State Retirement System.**  
Appropriates money for aid to the Minnesota State Retirement System, with amounts specified for certain purposes.
- 35     **Public Employees Retirement Association.**  
Appropriates money for aid to the Public Employees Retirement Association, with amounts specified for certain purposes.
- 36     **Teachers Retirement Association.**  
Appropriates money for aid to the Teachers Retirement Association, with amounts specified for certain purposes.
- 37     **St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund.**  
Appropriates money for aid to the St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association.
- 38     **Account established; appropriation.**  
Eliminates a provision that prohibited the expenditure of money in the Capitol Area community vitality account until the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board and the legislature approve a detailed program and oversight plan.
- 39     **Government and citizen services.**  
Retroactively extends the availability of a \$5,000,000 appropriation to the Department of Administration to implement the updated Capitol Mall Design Framework.

Effective date: Effective retroactive to July 1, 2024.

**Section Description – Article 1: State Government and Elections Appropriations**

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- 40 **Minnesota Management and Budget.**  
Reduces a fiscal year 2025 appropriation for a data disaggregation project by \$1,700,000.  
Effective date: Effective May 24, 2025.
- 41 **St. Anthony Falls study.**  
Extends the due date and funding for a University of Minnesota geophysical study and hazard assessment of the St. Anthony Falls area and St. Anthony Falls cutoff wall in Minneapolis.  
Effective date: Effective May 24, 2025.
- 42 **Commissioner of management and budget.**  
Modifies a 2024 law requiring Minnesota Management and Budget to transfer money from the health care access fund for the Minnesota insulin safety net program.
- 43 **Appropriation extension; Amateur Sports Commission.**  
Extends the availability of an existing fiscal year 2024 appropriation to the Amateur Sports Commission.  
Effective date: Effective May 24, 2025.
- 44 **Temporary carryforward authority.**  
Authorizes executive agencies to carryforward unspent nongrant operating balances from FY 24-25 to FY 26-27, from FY 26-27 to FY 28-29, and from FY 28-29 to FY 30-31.
- 45 **Appropriation; administration.**  
Appropriates \$3,000,000 from the Capitol Area community vitality account to the Department of Administration for a grant to Ramsey County to – via the Ramsey County sheriff in consultation with other named entities – develop and implement a coordinated public safety and livability plan in the Capitol Area.
- 46 **Transfers.**  
Requires the secretary of state, in consultation with Minnesota Management and Budget, to transfer specified amounts from the general fund to other named funds. Requires Minnesota Management and Budget to transfer \$2 million from the Capitol Area vitality account to the general fund.  
Effective date: Effective May 24, 2025.

## Article 2: State Government Policy

Among other things, this article would require the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) to report to legislative committees regarding agency implementation of OLA recommendations, modify education and reciprocity requirements for certified public accountants, and modify licensing requirements for lottery ticket retailers.

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- 1      **State fossil.**  
Designates *Castoroides ohioensis*, commonly known as the giant beaver, or *capa* in Dakota and *amik* in Ojibwe, as Minnesota’s official state fossil. Requires the Office of the Secretary of State to preserve a photograph of the giant beaver that is approved by the Department of Natural Resources.
  
- 2      **State constellation.**  
Designates Ursa Minor as Minnesota’s official state constellation.
  
- 3      **Officers and employees.**  
Clarifies that the senate must elect a president from among its membership.
  
- 4      **Leaders.**  
Authorizes the house of representatives and senate to increase by one the number of leadership positions that may receive up to 140 percent of the compensation provided to other representatives and senators.  
  
Effective date: Effective retroactive to January 14th of this year.
  
- 5      **Chair and vice-chair.**  
Specifies that when not serving as chair, the speaker of the house of representatives or the president of the senate serves as the Legislative Coordinating Commission’s vice-chair.
  
- 6      **Definitions.**  
Adds the Legislative Coordinating Commission to the definition of “joint (legislative) offices.”
  
- 7      **Joint legislative studies.**  
Provides that an appropriation of funding for a joint legislative study that is assigned by law to an existing legislative office should be made to the office itself, not to the Legislative Coordinating Commission.

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- 8        **Staff; compensation.**  
Requires OLA to establish a separate Special Reviews Division to fulfill relevant statutory duties.
- 9        **Special reviews.**  
Expands the scope of OLA’s special review authority. Authorizes OLA to conduct a special review to investigate allegations that individuals and organizations subject to audit by OLA did not comply with legal requirements generally. Authorizes OLA to conduct follow-up special reviews.
- 10       **Obligation to notify the legislative auditor.**  
Expands the obligation to notify OLA when an organization subject to OLA audit obtains information indicating that public money, other public resources, or government data may have been used for an unlawful purpose. Requires deputy and assistant chief executive officers (e.g., deputy and assistant commissioners), chief administrative officers, chief investigative officers, divisions heads, and, where applicable, board chairs, to report to OLA under this section.
- 11       **Implementation of audit recommendations.**  
Requires OLA, as resources permit, to submit an annual report to the leaders of each legislative committee with fiscal jurisdiction over an entity subject to OLA oversight. Requires OLA to report annually, as resources permit, to certain legislators regarding the legislative committees to which OLA presented this report during a public meeting.
- 12       **Duties and powers.**  
In combination with section 13, this section changes the deadline for the State Board of Investment’s annual legislative report from December 31 to no later than March 31.
- 13       **Annual report.**  
See section 12.
- 14       **Contracts.**  
Exempts the State Board of Investment’s investment contracts from certain elements of the new state procurement contract limitations in section 45.
- 15       **Procedure when data is not accurate or complete.**  
Authorizes the responsible authority under the Government Data Practices Act to submit to the Department of Administration the private data at issue when an individual appeals the responsible authority’s determination regarding the accuracy or completeness of data about the individual. Allows the department to disclose any

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- private data in the appeal record to the Office of Administrative Hearings. If an appeal results in the responsible authority correcting or destroying data, this section classifies as private any data that the Department of Administration retains for record-keeping purposes.
- 16     **Data sharing.**  
Allows any government entity to disclose data of any classification to any other government entity or law enforcement agency if the data is related to suspected or confirmed fraud in public programs and would promote the protection of public resources or the integrity of public programs, or aid law enforcement.
- 17     **Creation.**  
Changes the name of the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) to the Court of Administrative Hearings.
- 18     **Chief administrative law judge.**  
Changes “office” to “court” to conform to the name change in the prior section.
- 19     **Writing required.**  
Provides that an agency request for remand under section 21 must be supported by the agency’s reasoning.
- 20     **Administrative law judge decision final; exception.**  
Provides that an OAH order or report is not the final decision in a contested case if the agency requests remand under section 21 within 90 days.
- 21     **Agency request for remand.**  
Authorizes agencies to request remand of an OAH finding of fact, conclusion of law, or recommendation within 45 days. Requires the agency to state with specificity the reasons for the request and provide supporting information. Requires OAH to accept a request for remand in certain circumstances. Allows OAH to accept a request for other reasons as justice requires and consistent with the purposes of the Administrative Procedures Act. Requires the chief judge or their designee, upon accepting an agency request for remand, to assign an administrative law judge to conduct further proceedings.
- 22     **Program payments withheld; fraud.**  
Allows the head of any state agency to withhold payments to a participant in any program administered by that agency for up to 60 days if the agency head determines that a preponderance of the evidence shows that the participant has committed fraud to obtain payment under the program. Requires the agency to provide advance notice to the participant. Provides that the withholding is a

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temporary action and subject to appeal under the Administrative Procedures Act. Classifies certain government data pertaining to the allegation and withholding as not public during the payment withholding period. Authorizes the agency head to obtain a temporary injunction. Requires a legislative report no later than March 15, 2026, summarizing state agency usage of the authority granted under this section. Provides that this section will expire on July 1, 2027.

Effective date: Effective May 24, 2025.

**23 Reporting alleged misuse of public resources or data.**

Requires the commissioner or other chief executive officer of each state agency to ensure that employee and nonemployee concerns about the misuse of public funds, other public resources, or government data are promptly directed to OLA or agency leadership. Requires Minnesota Management and Budget to develop a policy to standardize this reporting process across state agencies.

**24 Organizational charts posted.**

Requires state agencies to post an organizational chart on the agency's website that includes the names of, and contact information for, the agency head, deputy and assistant agency heads, and the head of each division or bureau within the agency.

**25 Local news organization advertising by state agencies.**

Requires agencies to report annually on their websites on specified topics related to their advertising expenditures. Provides that this section will expire on February 2, 2031.

Effective date: Effective August 1, 2025.

**26 SAVI program.**

Establishes a retained savings program to encourage state agencies to innovate and identify efficiencies and cost savings. Allows agencies to retain and carry forward half of any amount attributable to unanticipated innovation, efficiencies, or creative cost-savings.

**27 Submission of recommendations and determination.**

Modifies the deadline for the Compensation Council's salary recommendations for justices and judges. Moves the deadline from April 1 each odd-numbered year to September 1 each even-numbered year.

Background: the 24-member Compensation Council determines salaries for constitutional officers and agency heads, recommends salaries for supreme court

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- justices and district and appeals court judges, and prescribes daily compensation rates for voting members of the Direct Care and Treatment executive board.
- 28     **No ex parte communications.**  
Provides that the existing prohibition on communications between members of the Compensation Council and those whose compensation the council determines or recommends does not apply to testimony provided during council meetings, other communications when a majority of council members are present, or communications between a council member who is an attorney and an agency head, judge, or justice when such communication is necessary to represent the member’s client.
- 29     **Monitoring Office of the Legislative Auditor audits.**  
Requires Minnesota Management and Budget to submit an annual report to OLA detailing the implementation status of all OLA recommendations issued in the previous five years, itemizing and explaining those that have not been implemented to date.
- 30     **Forecast parameters.**  
Prohibits Minnesota Management and Budget from assuming legislative enactment of capital investment bills when preparing the state’s economic and budget forecasts.
- 31     **Report on budget reserve percentage.**  
Modifies the deadline for Minnesota Management and Budget’s annual budget reserve balance recommendation.
- 32     **Lapse.**  
Provides an exception to the general appropriation cancellation rules for money carried forward under the SAVI program established in section 26.
- 33     **Federal Assistive Technology Act.**  
Updates references to a federal law that provides support for, and assigns responsibilities to, states concerning the provision of assistive technology to individuals with disabilities (i.e., 2022’s “21st Century Assistive Technology Act”). Adds the state Board on Aging to the list of entities that must be represented on a state council that is appointed by the commissioner of administration and required under federal law (i.e., the Minnesota Assistive Technology Advisory Council).
- 34     **Other projects.**  
Provides that certain capital projects that are exempt from a requirement to present project plans and anticipated costs to certain committee chairs and/or minority leads for their recommendation or awareness are not exempt from a separate requirement

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- to notify a similar set of chairs and minority leads when the work is ready to begin. Projects subject to this notification requirement include highway rest areas, wastewater facilities, and the demolition or decommissioning of state assets.
- 35     **Reimbursements.**  
Requires the Department of Administration to report to the legislature by September 15 each year concerning the rates that the department charges to other state agencies for services provided by the department, such as central mail and the upkeep of state buildings and grounds. Under prior law, this report was due July 1 each year.
- 36     **Vehicles.**  
Authorizes the Department of Administration to provide unmarked motor vehicles to the state Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care.
- 37     **Definitions.**  
Defines “grantee” to include both potential and current recipients of state grants, authorizing the Department of Administration to debar both under Minn. Stat. § 16B.97, subd. 3, clause (6). Exempts certain capital project grants from the Department of Administration’s grants management statutes and policies.
- 38     **Limitations.**  
Replaces the existing requirement that recipients of state grants agree to minimize administrative costs billed to the state grant with a requirement that recipients instead agree that any such administrative costs must be necessary and reasonable.
- 39     **Reporting of violations.**  
Requires state employees to promptly report violations of grantmaking laws or rules to their supervisor or manager, the Department of Administration, or the OLA. Under prior law, state employees were encouraged to make such reports. If the employee reports to their supervisor, manager, or the Department of Administration, then the supervisor, manager, or Department of Administration must notify OLA. Eliminates language that previously restricted the information that OLA may report to the Legislative Audit Commission when OLA receives multiple complaints about the same agency.
- 40     **Creation and validity of grant agreements.**  
Provides that grant agreements between the state and grantees must, as determined by the Department of Administration, require the grantee to post on its website the names and contact information for the grantee’s leadership and the employee or other person who directly manages and oversees the grant for the grantee. Authorizes state agencies to suspend performance under a grant

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- agreement while funding is cancelled, withdrawn, or terminated. Provides that such suspension does not release the state from its obligations.
- 41      **Grants management training.**  
Requires all agency grants management staff to complete initial and annual training.
- 42      **Agency authority to not award grant.**  
Reduces from 30 business days to 15 calendar days the amount of time that each state agency must allow a potential grantee the opportunity to satisfy an agency's concerns regarding the potential grantee's ability to perform the duties required under the grant. Shortens the window for a potential grantee to initiate a contested case proceeding with the Office (Court) of Administrative Hearings from 30 business days to 30 calendar days. Eliminates a requirement that agencies consider additional written information submitted by the applicant when the applicant contests the agency's decision within 15 business days.
- 43      **Authority.**  
Allows the Department of Administration to unilaterally terminate a state grant agreement after determining that performance under the grant agreement is not in the best interests of the state.
- 44      **Creation and validity of contracts.**  
Authorizes agencies to suspend performance under state contracts while funding is cancelled, withdrawn, or terminated. Provides that such suspension does not release the state from its obligations.
- 45      **Unenforceable terms.**  
Prohibits state entities from agreeing to certain contract terms, such as mandatory arbitration and automatic renewals that would obligate state funds in future fiscal years. Provides that if a state contract contains one of these prohibited terms, the term is void and the contract is enforceable as if the term did not exist. Requires the Department of Administration to post a copy of this section on the department's website.
- 46      **Evaluation.**  
Eliminates the requirement for an annual legislative report from the Department of Administration concerning energy and renewable fuel use by state fleet vehicles and requires the department to post the same information and recommendations on a public dashboard maintained by the department's Office of Enterprise Sustainability.

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- 47      **Small business.**  
Allows the Department of Administration to establish a size standard for “small business” for purposes of state contracting preferences, which may differ from a definition in federal rules.
- 48      **Purchasing methods.**  
Modifies a statute governing the Department of Administration’s Targeted Group Small Business Procurement Program. Eliminates a provision that prohibited the department from establishing goals in a construction contract or a contract for professional and technical services that require a prime contractor who is a small business or a targeted group small business to subcontract with other small businesses or targeted group small businesses.
- 49      **Veteran-owned small business.**  
Eliminates a provision that prohibited the Department of Administration from establishing goals in a construction contract or a contract for professional and technical services that require a prime contractor who is a veteran-owned small business to subcontract with other veteran-owned small businesses.
- 50      **Economically disadvantaged area.**  
Eliminates a provision that prohibited the Department of Administration from establishing goals in a construction contract or a contract for professional and technical services that require a prime contractor who is a small business located in an economically disadvantaged area to subcontract with other small businesses located in economically disadvantaged areas.
- 51      **Generally.**  
Modifies the date by which Minnesota Management and Budget must submit an annual report to the legislature summarizing the number and dollar amount of tax and other debts owed to the state that state agencies have determined are uncollectable.
- 52      **Retired employees.**  
Provides that a retired state employee’s covered spouse may purchase coverage for themselves under the State Employee Group Insurance Program (SEGIP) if the retiree (1) loses SEGIP eligibility by enrolling in Medical Assistance (Medicaid), and (2) has a disability that satisfies the categorical eligibility requirements of the federal Supplemental Security Income program (i.e., the retired employee is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity due to a medically determinable physical or mental impairment that is expected to result in death or to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months).

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- 53      **Insulin repayment account; annual transfer from health care access fund.**  
Specifies that Minnesota Management and Budget must annually transfer money from the health care access fund to the insulin repayment account in the special revenue fund. By law, money in this account is appropriated to the Department of Administration to reimburse manufacturers for insulin dispensed under an insulin safety net program.
- 54      **Fraud.**  
Defines “fraud” for purposes of the expanded whistleblower protections in section 57.
- 55      **Misuse.**  
Defines “misuse” for purposes of the expanded whistleblower protections in section 57.
- 56      **Personal gain.**  
Defines “personal gain” for purposes of the expanded whistleblower protections in section 57.
- 57      **Prohibited action.**  
Modifies state whistleblower protections so that any state employee (whether in the classified or unclassified service) who reports information about state programs that the employee believes to be truthful and accurate (including but not limited to suspected fraud or misuse) receives whistleblower protection when communicating this information to a legislator, OLA, a constitutional officer, their employer, any governmental body, or law enforcement.
- 58      **Payments to state.**  
Increases the regulatory fee for advance deposit wagering (ADW) on horse racing to two percent of all amounts wagered by Minnesota residents. (ADW fees are paid by authorized advance deposit wagering providers and the proceeds are appropriated to the Racing Commission to regulate horse racing, pari-mutuel wagering, and card clubs.)
- 59      **Responsible lottery official.**  
Defines this term for purposes of the Minnesota Lottery’s retailer eligibility criteria and contract cancellation/suspension/refusal conditions, which are modified in sections 60 to 62. For retailers that are not organized as sole proprietorships, “responsible lottery officials” are limited to those officers, directors, or owners that actually oversee lottery ticket sales.

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- 60      **Qualifications.**  
Establishes separate but parallel eligibility criteria for lottery ticket retailers that are sole proprietorships versus those retailers that are organized as a firm, partnership, or corporation. Clarifies that lottery retailer background checks must also include criminal records in jurisdictions outside of Minnesota. Provides that for retailers that are not sole proprietors, the disqualifying conditions based on age, tax delinquency, convictions, familial relationships with lottery staff, etc., apply only to those employees that satisfy the definition of “responsible lottery official,” as defined in section 59.
- 61      **Criminal history.**  
Modifies procedures and requirements for background checks of lottery ticket retailers.
- 62      **Cancellation, suspension, and refusal to renew contracts or locations.**  
Provides that the conviction criteria for which the lottery must cancel, suspend, or refuse to renew a retailer contract apply only to the retailer’s “responsible lottery officials,” as defined in section 59, when the retailer is not a sole proprietorship. Modifies the crimes for which the lottery may suspend or terminate a retailer’s contract from fraud, misrepresentation, and deceit, to any crime involving fraud or misrepresentation, or any gambling-related offense.
- 63      **If \$750,000 sales, audited statement.**  
Increases the annual sales threshold at which a city operating a municipal liquor store must submit audited financial statements for the liquor store to the Office of the State Auditor and annually indexes this threshold for inflation moving forward.  
  
Effective date: Effective May 24, 2025.
- 64      **2025 Compensation Council revived.**  
Revives the Compensation Council that was appointed in 2025 so this same version of the council may submit judicial salary recommendations by September 1, 2026. Under prior law, the council appointed in 2025 dissolved after it submitted its determinations for agency head and constitutional officer salaries and its recommendations for judicial salaries on March 31, 2025.
- 65      **Open positions report.**  
Requires Minnesota Management and Budget to report three times during the FY 2026-2027 biennium regarding certain unfilled positions in the executive branch.

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**66 Integrating application information and a referral process for the transit assistance program on the MNbenefits web portal.**

Requires the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, in consultation with others, to integrate application information and a referral process for the Transit Assistance Program into the MNbenefits web portal. Requires Metro Transit and the Metropolitan Council to continue to process applications for the transit assistance program after the information and referral process are integrated into the MNbenefits web portal.

**67 Statue replacement.**

Authorizes the Department of Administration to accept private funds and replace one of Minnesota’s two statues in the United States Capitol.

Effective date: Provides that this section is effective only after the house and senate certify that the state has satisfied federal requirements for a statue replacement request (i.e., both bodies have passed a resolution, which is approved by the governor).

**68 Revisor instruction.**

Technical—directs the revisor of statutes to change “Office of Administrative Hearings” to “Court of Administrative Hearings” throughout Minnesota Statutes to conform to the name change in sections 17 and 18.

**69 Repealer.**

Repeals the following statutes.

**Subd. 1. Legislative commissions.** Repeals statutes that authorize the following joint legislative commissions and committees: Legislative Commission on Minnesota Sports Facilities (§ 3.8842); Legislative Commission on Housing Affordability (§ 3.8845); Driver and Vehicle Systems Oversight Committee (Laws 2019, First Special Session chapter 3, article 2, section 34); and Legislative COVID-19 Response Commission (Laws 2022, chapter 50, article 3, section 2).

**Subd. 2. Employee gainsharing.** Repeals the statute that requires Minnesota Management and Budget to administer an employee gainsharing program.

**Subd. 3. Department of Administration.** Repeals sections administered by the Department of Administration, as follows: a requirement to produce a model outdoor light pollution ordinance (§ 16B.328, subdivision 2), and a requirement to make available to other state agencies under a master contract program a list of eligible contractors who can assist state agencies in using data analytics to

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accomplish agency reorganization along service lines and flatten the organizational structure (§ 16C.36).

**Subd. 4. Advisory Council on Infrastructure.** Repeals the statutes that govern this advisory council and require the Department of Administration to provide administrative support to the council.

**Subd. 5. Office of the Legislative Auditor.** Repeals a statute that (1) allows OLA to conduct certain performance evaluations, and (2) requires OLA to conduct these same evaluations upon request of the governing body of a political subdivision or the previously expired state Information Systems Advisory Council.

**Subd. 6. Political and campaign provisions.** Repeals two sections of statute in chapter 211B (fair campaign practices) that have been found unconstitutional by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit.

### **Article 3: State Personnel Management**

This article makes various changes to state personnel management statutes, as requested by Minnesota Management and Budget and Governor Tim Walz. Among other things, the sections in this article would:

- Change the name of the “Commissioner’s Plan” to the “Nonrepresented Employees Compensation Plan.” Background: this plan, developed by Minnesota Management and Budget, governs compensation and working conditions for nonmanagerial classified and unclassified employees in the executive branch who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement or otherwise provided for in law
- Remove the length of service limit for student workers
- Modify the “Connect 700” program for individuals with disabilities who are seeking employment in state government
- Allow retirees to donate surplus vacation hours to a general pool available to employees on sick leave
- Eliminate an annual report to the legislature that identifies the number of employees, by agency, who opt out of the State Employee Group Insurance Program (SEGIP)
- Remove University of Minnesota and Highway Credit Union employees from the list of employees eligible to participate in SEGIP
- Allow officers and employees of the Center for Rural Policy and Development and the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute to participate in SEGIP at their own expense

- Rename the “Supported Work Program” for individuals with significant disabilities as the “Customized Employment Program”
- Repeal certain statutes, as follows:
  - Minn. Stat. § 43A.315, which authorizes Minnesota Management and Budget to reward employees participating in SEGIP when actual per capita health care costs are less than previously estimated
  - Minn. Stat. § 43A.317, which authorizes Minnesota Management and Budget to create a Minnesota Employees Insurance Program to provide eligible private employers with the advantages of a large pool when purchasing insurance
  - Minn. Stat. § 43A.318, which authorizes Minnesota Management and Budget to offer group long-term care insurance to state employees and others eligible to participate in SEGIP
- Make various other edits to personnel management procedures and terminology

## Article 4: Licensing Boards

This article modifies certain statutes and requirements that apply to professions regulated by the following occupational licensing boards: Board of Cosmetology; Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design; and Board of Accountancy.

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| 1 | <b>Textured hair.</b><br>Defines “textured hair” for purposes of the cosmetology chapter.   |
| 2 | <b>Qualifications.</b><br>Eliminates a requirement that a person applying for a license to be a cosmetologist, hair technician, manager, or instructor have training and experience related to all hair types and textures.   |
| 3 | <b>Training.</b><br>Eliminates training requirements related to hair types and textures for obtaining a license as a hair technician.   |
| 4 | <b>Standards.</b><br>Requires that cosmetologist and hair technician courses, required by the Board of Cosmetology as an educational prerequisite to testing and licensure, include textured hair training that consists of theoretical and clinical instruction on working with hair with various curl, coil, and wave patterns; hair strand thicknesses; and volumes. |

**Section Description – Article 4: Licensing Boards**

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- 5        **Qualifications of board members.**  
Lessens certain eligibility criteria for members of the Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design (AELSLAGID).
- 6        **Issuance.**  
Eliminates the age requirement to be licensed as an architect, engineer, land surveyor, landscape architect, geoscientist, or interior designer and adds a requirement to comply with the board’s Rules of Professional Conduct.
- 7        **Examination.**  
Eliminates a requirement that one person involved in issuing AELSLAGID licenses or certificates be licensed or certified in the relevant profession. Requires that an applicant for licensure or certification must provide evidence of passing required examinations.
- 8        **Temporary military license.**  
Eliminates the fee for a temporary license issued by the Board of AELSLAGID for former and current military members. Previously the fee was \$132.
- 9        **Cease and desist orders.**  
Specifies procedures for serving a cease and desist order of the Board of AELSLAGID and establishes when service is deemed complete.
- 10       **Actions against applicants and licensees.**  
Specifies procedures for serving orders of the Board of AELSLAGID affecting licensees and applicants and establishes when service is deemed complete.
- 11       **Procedure for temporary suspension of license or certificate.**  
Specifies the procedure for serving an order of the Board of AELSLAGID for temporary suspension of a license or certificate and establishes when service is complete.
- 12       **Actions against a person with lapsed license or certificate.**  
Authorizes the Board of AELSLAGID to take action against a person with a lapsed license or certificate. The board may initiate a proceeding to suspend or revoke a license or certificate, or to impose a civil penalty.

**Section Description – Article 4: Licensing Boards**

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- 13      **Certificate; required education and experience until July 1, 2030.**  
Provides that the existing Board of Accountancy education and experience requirements for certified public accountant (CPA) certification, including the 150 semester-hour education requirement, expire on July 1, 2030.
- 14      **Certificate; required education and experience after June 30, 2030.**  
Establishes alternative CPA education and experience criteria to replace the expiring criteria in section 13 beginning July 1, 2030. In place of the 150 semester-hour education requirement, applicants are required to hold a master’s degree and have at least one year of acceptable experience, or a bachelor’s or graduate degree and at least two years of acceptable experience. Defines acceptable experience.
- 15      **Transitional period.**  
Provides that from January 1, 2026, to July 1, 2030, the Board of Accountancy must award CPA certification to a person who satisfies the education and experience criteria under section 13 or 14, and other relevant certification requirements in statute or rule.  
  
Effective date: Effective January 1, 2026.
- 16      **Mobility.**  
Modifies reciprocity requirements for CPAs from other states. Provides that an individual whose principal place of business is in another state may operate in Minnesota without a license if the person is certified/licensed/permitted and in good standing in another state, has a bachelor’s degree or higher with a concentration in accounting or an equivalent as determined by the board in rule, and has passed the Uniform CPA Examination.  
  
Effective date: Effective May 24, 2025.
- 17      **Repealer.**  
Repeals the Minnesota Board of Accountancy rule governing substantial equivalency for CPAs from other states, which is effectively replaced by the modified requirements in section 16.

## **Article 5: Business Filing Fraud and Deceptive Mailings**

This article establishes a process for challenging and removing fraudulent business filings that were filed with the Office of the Secretary of State, authorizes the assessment of a late penalty, and prohibits certain deceptive business mailings.

**Section Description – Article 5: Business Filing Fraud and Deceptive Mailings**

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**1 Late renewal penalty.**

Allows the secretary of state to assess a late penalty of up to \$40 when a person files for renewal or reinstatement of a business entity that was administratively dissolved due to failure to renew prior to dissolution. Appropriates the proceeds to the secretary of state for three specified purposes. Requires the secretary of state to submit an annual report to the legislature identifying the amount of penalty revenue collected and the outcomes achieved under this appropriation.

**2 Scope.**

Technical—updates a Government Data Practices Act cross-reference to conform to section 3.

**3 Business fraud investigations.**

Modifies the Government Data Practices Act to note that data maintained by the secretary of state and related to fraudulent business filing investigations is governed by section 12.

**4 Citation and definitions.**

Allows sections 300.70 to 300.78 to be cited as the Minnesota Business Filing Fraud Prevention Act. Defines key terms, including “complainant” and “filer.”

**5 Declaration of wrongful filing.**

Establishes a process for accepting and reviewing wrongful filing complaints.

**Subd. 1. Form and contents of declaration.** Allows a complainant to deliver a declaration of wrongful filing to the Office of the Secretary of State if the complainant believes the document was not authorized and was filed with the intent to either modify business records or register a business using another person’s information. Requires a declaration of wrongful filing to contain certain information. Requires the office to provide a form for declarations filed under this section. Provides that a false statement in a submitted document is a violation of section 609.48 (i.e., perjury).

**Subd. 2. Review of declaration.** Requires the Office of the Secretary of State to promptly accept or reject a declaration of wrongful filing. Allows the office to reject a declaration if it’s incomplete or not submitted in the correct form, if the office reasonably believes it was delivered with the intent to harass or defraud, or if the office issued a prior final order on the filing at issue.

**Subd. 3. Nonexclusive remedy.** Provides that the remedies of this act are not exclusive and an aggrieved party can seek district court action without initiating or completing the processes provided under this section.

**Section Description – Article 5: Business Filing Fraud and Deceptive Mailings**

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**6 Notice.**

Requires the Office of the Secretary of State to provide notice of a filed declaration to the complainant and filer. Requires the notice to include certain information. Provides mailing requirements the office must abide by for the notice. Deems that notice is received by the complainant and filer upon mailing. Allows the office to deem a filing fraudulent and immediately issue a final order if the notice the office mails to the filer is returned as undeliverable.

**7 Response.**

Requires the filer to respond to allegations in writing within 21 days of receipt of notice. Requires filers to provide any information that refutes allegations in the declaration.

**8 Procedure when no response received.**

Requires the Office of the Secretary of State to deem a filing fraudulent and issue a final order if the filer does not respond within 21 days of receiving the notice.

**9 Procedure when response received.**

Establishes a process for handling and evaluating responses submitted by the filer.

**Subd. 1. Preliminary determination.** If a timely response is received, requires the Office of the Secretary of State to investigate allegations in the declaration and response and make a preliminary determination regarding whether the filing is fraudulent. Allows the office to request additional information from the complainant and filer if necessary to make a preliminary determination.

**Subd. 2. Notice of preliminary determination.** Requires the office to send notice to the complainant and filer of the office's preliminary determination.

**Subd. 3. Response.** Allows the nonprevailing party to respond to the preliminary determination within ten days with additional information or evidence in support of their position. Allows the prevailing party to send additional information during that same time period.

**Subd. 4. Procedure if no second response received.** Provides that a preliminary determination becomes a final order if the nonprevailing party does not file a response in compliance with subdivision 3.

**Subd. 5. Procedure if second response is received.** Requires the office to consider additional information if provided in compliance with subdivision 3 before issuing a final order about the declaration.

**Section Description – Article 5: Business Filing Fraud and Deceptive Mailings**

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**Subd. 6. Factors.** Requires the office to take certain information into account when making a preliminary or final determination.

**10 Final order.**

Requires the Office of the Secretary of State to issue a final order if it finds a filing is fraudulent. Requires that if a filing is found fraudulent, it must be treated as never having existed and provides that a fraudulently filed business is dissolved. Allows the office to issue a final order stating that it is not removing the filing if it is deemed not fraudulent or the office has insufficient information.

**11 Judicial review.**

Creates an appeal system in district court if a party aggrieved by a final order issued by the Office of the Secretary of State chooses to appeal.

**12 Data practices.**

Classifies data collected by the Office of the Secretary of State as part of a fraudulent filing proceeding as not public data. Allows the office to release data to the attorney general to aid in an investigation, to a person or agency to aid in a criminal or civil investigation, or as required by a court order or other state or federal law.

**13 Prohibition on deceptive business mailings.**

Requires solicitations, as defined, to include certain information, be formatted in a specific way, and include a disclaimer. Provides that a person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and in violation of the state Uniform Trade Practices Act.

**14 Acts constituting.**

Technical: adds a cross-reference to the crime of perjury for submitting knowingly false material statements to the Office of the Secretary of State.

**15 Rulemaking.**

Allows the Office of the Secretary of State to adopt rules with no time limit to this authority.

Effective date: Effective May 24, 2025.

**16 Effective date.**

Provides that the sections pertaining to fraudulent business filings take effect for filings made on or after January 1, 2026.

## Article 6: Local Government Policy

This article contains a number of policy provisions that impact local governments' authority and requirements.

### Section Description – Article 6: Local Government Policy

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- 1        **Conditions.**  
Removes certain limitations for remote participation under the Open Meeting Law for members of nonstate public bodies, authorizing such members to participate remotely in an open meeting any number of times, from any location, and for any reason.
  
- 2        **Notice of regular meeting locations.**  
Amends the notice requirement for nonstate public bodies conducting a meeting by interactive technology by removing the requirement that the location of a member participating remotely be stated in the notice.
  
- 3        **Appraisal.**  
Doubles the maximum reimbursement amounts allowed under current law for an appraisal of property conducted for a property owner whose property is to be acquired through eminent domain.
  
- 4        **Use requirements.**  
Authorizes public water districts, sewer districts, and combination water and sewer districts to install water and sewer lines and ancillary infrastructure within public township, county, or state road right-of-way. Clarifies that the installation of such infrastructure in trunk highway right-of-way must comply with a trunk highway utility infrastructure installation statute and associated rules.
  
- 5        **Discontinuance.**  
Authorizes the posting of a public notice on a political subdivision's website when no qualified newspaper is available for publication of the notice after the discontinuance of a newspaper.
  
- 6        **Transition; audit.**  
Increases the annual revenue threshold over which a town that has combined the offices of clerk and treasurer must have an annual financial audit. Makes a conforming change to the revenue description to align with similar auditing provisions in the statutes.

Effective August 1, 2025, and applies to audits performed for 2026 and thereafter.

**Section Description – Article 6: Local Government Policy**

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- 7      **[383A.151] Ramsey County Economic Development Authority.**  
Creates the Ramsey County Economic Development Authority in the Ramsey County chapter of the law, articulating the authority’s powers and governing structure.  
  
Effective the day after Ramsey County complies with the local approval requirements for special laws.
- 8      **[383A.152] Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority; additional powers.**  
Extends the powers of the Ramsey County Economic Development Authority to the Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority.  
  
Effective the day after Ramsey County complies with the local approval requirements for special laws.
- 9      **Unclassified civil service.**  
Deletes a specific number of deputy administrators from a St. Louis County civil service statute.  
  
Effective the day after the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners complies with the local approval requirements for special laws.
- 10     **Clerk, treasurer combined; audit standards.**  
Increases the annual revenue threshold over which a standard plan statutory city that has combined the offices of clerk and treasurer must have an annual financial audit.  
  
Effective August 1, 2025, and applies to audits performed for 2026 and thereafter.
- 11     **Membership.**  
Provides statutory cities the option of establishing a public utilities commission with three, five, or seven members with staggered terms.
- 12     **Change in membership; procedures.**  
Authorizes the number of statutory city public utility commission members to be increased or decreased by ordinance, but subject to a reverse referendum.
- 13     **Audit standards if combined.**  
Increases the annual revenue threshold over which a statutory city, plan A, that has combined the offices of clerk and treasurer must have an annual financial audit.  
  
Effective August 1, 2025, and applies to audits performed for 2026 and thereafter.

**Section Description – Article 6: Local Government Policy**

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- 14      **[471.3458] Volunteer emergency services providers; tire purchases.**  
Permits a municipality or fire department to authorize an active volunteer emergency services provider with at least three years of service to purchase up to four vehicle tires for the provider’s personal vehicle every three years under the municipality’s or fire department’s contract price.
- 15      **[471.9994] Landlord-tenant guide.**  
Requires cities and towns to provide landlords with a link to the electronic version of the attorney general’s landlord-tenant guide upon issuance or renewal of a rental license, or registration or certificate of occupancy.
- 16      **Conformity.**  
Requires towns and special districts to conform to financial reporting standards established by the state auditor to receive aid distributions.  
  
Effective August 1, 2025, and applies to aid distributions on or after that date.
- 17 - 22      **Amendments to Swift County Joint Hospital District.**  
Reduces the number of board members of a hospital district in Swift County from nine to 12 voting members to six voting members. Also authorizes the hospital district to change the number of board members through adoption and amendment of bylaws.  
  
Technical changes are made throughout to correct an erroneous reference to the provision governing the bylaws of the hospital district board.
- 23      **Repealer.**  
Repeals a St. Louis County statute that provides that every lay member appointed to a board or commission by the St. Louis County Board is appointed to a term of three years. Also repeals four subdivisions of a St. Louis County statute which relate to an annual appropriation of county funds for county historical society work.  
  
Effective the day after the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners complies with the local approval requirements for special laws.
- 24      **Effective date.**  
Provides that sections 17 to 22 are effective the day after the governing bodies of Swift County and the city of Benson comply with the local approval requirements for special laws.  
  
Provides that unless specified otherwise, the provisions of article 6 are effective the day following final enactment (May 24, 2025).

## Article 7: Campaign Finance

This article contains a number of changes related to campaign finance and lobbying disclosure requirements.

### Section Description – Article 7: Campaign Finance

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- 1 Expenses of secretary of state-elect.**

Provides for a transfer from the general contingent account in the general fund to the Department of Management and Budget to pay certain expenses of the secretary of state-elect related to preparing for the assumption of official duties. Additional details describing how the funds may be used, and the disposition of unused funds, is provided.
- 2 Expenses of state auditor-elect.**

Provides for a transfer from the general contingent account in the general fund to the Department of Management and Budget to pay certain expenses of the state auditor-elect related to preparing for the assumption of official duties. Additional details describing how the funds may be used, and the disposition of unused funds, is provided.
- 3 Expenses of attorney general-elect.**

Provides for a transfer from the general contingent account in the general fund to the Department of Management and Budget to pay certain expenses of the attorney general-elect related to preparing for the assumption of official duties. Additional details describing how the funds may be used, and the disposition of unused funds, is provided.
- 4 Expert witness.**

Defines the term “expert witness.” This term is newly incorporated into law, as part of a change that exempts certain activities from required lobbyist registration and reporting.
- 5 Lobbyist.**

Modifies certain activities that are exempt from the definition of “lobbyist,” which would otherwise require lobbyist registration and reporting. The changes impact nonelected local officials and employees of a political subdivision, certain finance professionals who participate in conduit financing through a political subdivision, and expert witnesses who communicate with officials at a public meeting or in a manner that is made available to the general public.

**Section Description – Article 7: Campaign Finance**

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- 6        **Local official.**  
Modifies the statutory definition of the term “local official” used for purposes of certain lobbyist reporting and public disclosure laws.
- 7        **Noncampaign disbursement.**  
Allows certain transition and inaugural expenses to be paid for by a candidate’s campaign, as a noncampaign disbursement. Details regarding the types of permissible expenses are provided in a later section.
- 8        **Official action of a political subdivision.**  
Amends the statutory definition of the phrase “official action of a political subdivision,” used for purposes of certain lobbyist reporting and public disclosure laws.
- 9        **Content.**  
Adds new requirements to the content of a lobbyist’s report, to include information related to the lobbyist’s use of expert witnesses and certain finance professionals to communicate with public or local officials.
- 10       **Contingent fees prohibited.**  
Exempts attorneys and finance professionals from a general prohibition on the use of contingent fee arrangements in a lobbying context. The exemption applies only to the extent that the attorney or finance professional is participating in conduit financing through a political subdivision.
- 11       **Handbook for lobbying.**  
Requires the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board to publish a handbook for lobbying. The handbook must be written in plain language. A number of requirements related to the content of the handbook are provided in this section. The handbook must be published by January 15, 2026.
- 12       **Time for filing.**  
Amends the deadline for a candidate to file a statement of economic interest with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. The new deadline is 14 days after the candidate filing period ends, rather than 14 days after the candidate actually files for the office.
- 13       **Inaugural event and transition expenses.**  
Prohibits a candidate for constitutional office, or the candidate’s principal campaign committee, from soliciting or accepting contributions, or from making expenditures,

**Section Description – Article 7: Campaign Finance**

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- for inaugural events or transition expenses, unless made through the candidate’s principal campaign committee or as otherwise allowed by law.
- 14      **Report on personal contributions.**  
Requires that candidates for constitutional office or a legislative office that make a contribution or loan to the candidate’s principal campaign committee that exceeds the existing limit on personal contributions to report the contribution or loan to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board by the next business day. A new report is required each time the reporting threshold is exceeded.
- 15      **Major decision of nonelected local officials.**  
Describes circumstances in which an action may or may not constitute a “major decision” taken by a local official with regard to the expenditure of public money or public funds. These concepts are used in the context of lobbyist reporting requirements related to local officials.
- 16      **When and where filed by committees or candidates.**  
Modifies standards related to the filing of local campaign finance reports, to remove an existing spending threshold for when a report is required.
- 17      **Information required.**  
Permits a local candidate, when providing contact information on a campaign finance report, to attest that the candidate or candidate’s campaign does not possess an email address.
- 18      **Distribution of absentee ballot applications and sample ballots.**  
Establishes requirements related to the form of mailing, when a person or entity other than a unit of government mails a person an absentee ballot application or sample ballot.  
  
This change is effective January 1, 2026.
- 19      **Proof of claim.**  
Eliminates a reference to a special standard of proof for fair campaign practices complaints that are brought under a section of statute that has since been declared unconstitutional, related to false statements made in a campaign.
- 20      **Disposition of complaint.**  
Eliminates a reference to a section of statute that has since been declared unconstitutional, related to false statements made in a campaign.

**Section Description – Article 7: Campaign Finance**

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- 21      **Economic interest disclosure; Special School District No. 1.**  
Amends the deadline for a candidate for Minneapolis School Board to file a statement of economic interest with the school district. The new deadline is 14 days after the candidate filing period ends, rather than 14 days after the candidate actually files for the office.
- 22      **Rulemaking.**  
Requires the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board to conform certain administrative rules to the new requirements of law provided by this act, related to transition expenses.
- 23      **Effective date.**  
Provides that this article is effective January 1, 2026, unless otherwise specified.

## **Article 8: Elections Policy**

This article contains a number of miscellaneous policy changes related to elections administration and the process of voting.

**Section Description – Article 8: Elections Policy**

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- 1      **Registration.**  
Provides authority for an individual to update a voter registration, in addition to registering for the first time, using the options provided for voter registration by law.
- 2      **Prohibitions; penalty.**  
Adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, and includes other grammatical changes, in a section that establishes criminal penalties for certain activities related to voter registration.
- 3      **Signature of registered voter; marks allowed.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to voter signatures.
- 4      **Prior to election day.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to voter registration.

**Section Description – Article 8: Elections Policy**

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**5 Election day registration.**

Prohibits an election judge from signing a proof of residence oath vouching for an individual who appears in the precinct where the election judge is working, unless the election judge personally knows the individual is a resident of that precinct.

This section also eliminates a requirement that a residential facility operator provide a list of employees working in the facility to be used in election day registration. Instead, proof of employment provided by a residential facility employee is sufficient to demonstrate eligibility to vouch for the residence of those living in the facility. The secretary of state is required to publish guidance for residential facilities and residential facility employees on the vouching process and other requirements of this section.

A reference to “updating” a voter registration is also added.

**6 Additional proofs of residence permitted for students.**

Provides that the additional proofs of residence permitted for postsecondary students registering on election day includes registration during the 18-day early voting period in advance of election day.

**7 Registration by election judges; procedures.**

Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of law related to voter registration.

**8 Unregistered voters; penalty.**

Eliminates a reference in law to election precincts where voter registration is not required, in a section of law related to voting by unregistered voters. These types of precincts no longer exist in Minnesota.

**9 Record of attempted registrations.**

Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to election judges recording the number of attempted election day registrations in a precinct.

**10 Form.**

Eliminates a requirement that a box indicating a voter’s preference to join the permanent absentee voter list appears on the voter registration form. The change is effective July 1, 2025, except that it is effective January 1, 2026, for the secretary of state’s online voter registration application.

This section also includes a grammatical change to reference “updating” rather than “changing” a voter registration.

**Section Description – Article 8: Elections Policy**

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- 11      **Change of registration.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to changes to a voter’s registration record.
- 12      **Copy of list to registered voter.**  
Requires election officials to provide copies of the public information list within five business days, rather than within ten days, of receiving a request. The request must only be fulfilled if it is a “complete” request. Other grammatical changes are also provided.
- 13      **Registration places.**  
Provides a number of references to “updating” a voter registration, in addition to grammatical and other terminology changes related to voter registration.
- 14      **Entry of registration information.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to the entry of information into the statewide voter registration system by local officials.
- 15      **Postelection sampling.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to the process of eligibility verification after an election by mailing registration cards to a random sampling of election day registrants.
- 16      **Use of change of address system.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to the change of address system.
- 17      **Court administrator of district court; report changes of names.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to name changes reported by the state court administrator.
- 18      **Department of Human Services.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to automatic voter registration of individuals interacting with certain programs administered by the Department of Human Services.

**Section Description – Article 8: Elections Policy**

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- 19      **Other agencies and units of government.,**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to automatic voter registration of individuals interacting with certain state agency programs.
- 20      **Effective date of registration.**  
Provides a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to the effective date of a voter registration.
- 21      **Duties of state agencies.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to the obligation of certain state agencies to provide voter registration services.
- 22      **Technology requirements.**  
In a section of law establishing requirements for electronic roster systems, updates certain terminology related to registered voters and the process of “updating” a voter registration.
- 23      **Election day.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to the use of electronic rosters in a precinct on election day.
- 24      **Investigations; prosecutions.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to the prosecution of certain voter registration-related crimes.
- 25      **Application procedures.**  
Requires an applicant for an absentee ballot who does not possess both a verifiable Minnesota driver’s license or identification card number and a social security number to affirmatively certify that fact on the application.  
  
This section also prohibits an application form from being preprinted in a manner that requires the applicant to affirmatively opt out of being assigned to a permanent absentee voter list.

**Section Description – Article 8: Elections Policy**

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- 26      **Registration at time of application; updating registration.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to registration at the time a voter submits an absentee ballot.
- 27      **Registration check.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to verifying whether an absentee ballot applicant is a registered voter.
- 28      **Delivery of envelopes; directions.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to the mailing of absentee ballot materials.
- 29      **Eligibility certificate.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to the eligibility certificate signed by an absentee voter.
- 30      **Marking and return by voter.**  
Updates terminology used to refer to certain envelopes used in the absentee voting process. Consistent with changes to law that have been previously enacted, a “return envelope” is instead referred to as a “signature envelope.”
- 31      **Procedures on receipt of ballots.**  
Updates terminology used to refer to certain envelopes used in the absentee voting process. Consistent with changes to law that have been previously enacted, a “return envelope” is instead referred to as a “signature envelope.”
- 32      **Temporary locations.**  
Permits federally recognized Indian Tribes to request that a temporary polling place for early voting be located on off-reservation Tribal Lands, in addition to the authority in current law for placement on reservation lands.  
  
Provides notice requirements related to the designation of additional polling place locations that will be open for voting before election day. Within five business days of designating an additional location, a notice must be posted on the county’s or municipality’s websites, and on the website of the secretary of state. If a designation applies to both a primary and general election, a separate notice must be provided

**Section Description – Article 8: Elections Policy**

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- for each election and the notice for the general election must not be posted until after the date of the primary election.
- 33     **Opening of envelopes.**  
Provides additional requirements for ballot boards when reviewing and opening absentee envelopes, including verifying the number of envelopes and the number of ballots are equal, at various stages of the ballot board’s work. The ballot board must notify the official responsible for the board’s work if any discrepancy is discovered.
- 34     **Storage and counting of absentee ballots.**  
Provides conforming changes related to the additional absentee ballot board requirements established in this article.
- 35     **Website security.**  
Eliminates a now-obsolete reference to an annual security assessment report that was due in 2014.
- 36     **Duties.**  
Modifies requirements related to absentee ballot boards, when a municipality and county agree that the county’s ballot board retains responsibility for absentee ballots issued under the Uniform and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).
- 37     **Emergency response providers.**  
Provides that the absentee ballot application deadlines established in this bill do not apply to applications submitted by certain emergency response providers and utility workers deployed in response to an emergency.
- 38     **Reasonable accommodation for voter with disability.**  
Provides that the absentee ballot application deadlines established in this bill do not apply to applications submitted by certain voters with a print disability, or with a disability that interferes with the effective reading, writing, or use of printed materials.
- 39     **Voting procedure.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to procedures in an early voting location.
- 40     **Processing of ballots.**  
Establishes procedures for processing of ballots at the end of each day on which early voting occurs. These procedures include noting the date, voting location, and number of ballots cast; ensuring that the number of ballots removed from a ballot box is

**Section Description – Article 8: Elections Policy**

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equal to the number of voter certificates that were signed by the voters; and sealing and securing all voted and unvoted ballots present in the early voting location.

**41 Form of affidavit.**

Adds requirements for the form of an affidavit of candidacy, to include the phonetic spelling or an explanation for the pronunciation of the full name designated for the ballot, or a certification that the candidate directs the elections official responsible for programming to use the technology's default pronunciation.

**42 Address, electronic mail address, and telephone number.**

Extends an existing requirement that candidates provide an email address, to include candidates for judicial office, county attorney, and county sheriff.

This section also provides standards for use of certain documents used by a candidate to prove their residence in the district.

**43 Petitions for presidential electors and alternates.**

Provides content requirements for a petition filed for nomination as a presidential elector or alternate, for candidates who are not filing on behalf of a major political party.

**44 Absent candidates.**

Extends a requirement that candidates provide proof of residence to include candidates filing using the special "absent candidate" procedure. The absent candidate filing procedure applies if the candidate will be absent from the state for the entirety of the filing period, or the remainder of a filing period, in certain circumstances. A copy of a proof of residence document submitted by a candidate under this section is private data.

**45 Other elections.**

Extends a requirement that candidates provide proof of residence to include candidates filling for city, town, and certain other elected offices. These documents are private data. Additional requirements related to the preparation of ballots are also provided.

**46 Write-in candidates.**

Requires a candidate for county, state, or federal office who wishes to have their write-in votes counted to file a written request with the appropriate filing office no later than the 19<sup>th</sup> day prior, rather than the seventh day prior to the election.

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**47 Separate precincts; combined polling place.**

Requires that, where multiple polling places are combined in a single location, the secretary of state and county auditor must provide guidance to the election judges on the procedures used to ensure each voter is provided the correct ballot for the voter's precinct. A map showing the precincts served by the combined polling place and a notice that multiple ballot styles are in use must be prominently displayed near the entrance to the polling place.

This section also provides that the election official responsible for the electronic rosters may combine rosters from each of the precincts that have been combined for purposes of using the electronic roster system, so long as other requirements of law related to the use of the system are met.

**48 Municipal boundary adjustment procedure.**

Modifies an existing standard in law that sets the effective date of a change in an election precinct boundary due to a municipal boundary adjustment, when that change occurs near to a scheduled election. Under current law, a precinct boundary change that occurs less than 21 days before a regularly scheduled election would take effect the day after the election. This section provides that the changes that occur up to 46 days prior to the election take effect on the day after the election.

**49 Notice to voters.**

Requires the local official for the governing body to post a notice if a location of a polling place is changed. Details regarding the format and type of notice are provided.

**50 Prohibited locations.**

Prohibits a polling place from being designated in any location where cannabis products are served or sold, or in any adjoining room to that location.

**51 Notice.**

Requires that notices posted at a polling place location that is changed due to an emergency be provided in all languages required for the precinct, consistent with the law that requires certain precincts to provide materials in languages other than English.

**52 Chain of custody plans.**

Requires county auditors to develop a chain of custody plan to be used in all state, county, municipal, school district, and special district elections held in the county. Additional detail regarding the content of a chain of custody plan is provided.

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- Municipal, school district, and special district clerks must either use the county chain of custody plan, or create a local chain of custody plan for elections not held in conjunction with a federal, state, or county election so long as it meets or exceeds the county chain of custody plan.
- 53      **Party balance requirement.**  
Extends the existing law requiring party balance for election judges to include any location where ballots are being counted, recounted, or reviewed. Each major political party must be represented by at least one election judge in each precinct.
- 54      **Election judges; oath.**  
Expands the oath required to be signed by election judges to include a prohibition on sharing materially false information, and a prohibition on intentionally hindering, interfering with, or preventing a person from voting, registering to vote, or aiding another person in voting.
- 55      **Duties of county auditor.**  
Requires that training provided to election judges by each county auditor be consistent with the training programs established by the secretary of state.
- 56      **Election reporting system.**  
Requires the secretary of state to maintain an election reporting system. Requirements related to the entry of candidate names and the testing of the system are provided. For federal and state elections, the county auditor is required to report all unofficial results in the elections reporting system as soon as practicable after delivery of the returns. This section also makes clear that election results are not official until after the canvassing board certifies the result of the election.
- 57      **Election supplies; duties of county auditors and clerks.**  
Requires the municipal clerk to secure certain election materials from the county auditor no later than the day before the election, rather than four days before the election.
- 58      **Errors and omissions; remedy.**  
Provides a method of resolving allegations of an error or omission in the election administration process by mutual agreement of the impacted candidate and the entity responsible for administering the election. This section also permits legal service, when necessary, to be made by electronic mail sent to the address the candidate provided on their affidavit of candidacy in addition to other means that are permitted by law.

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- 59     **Procedure; voting prior to election day.**  
For jurisdictions that conduct elections entirely by mail, requires ballots to be mailed at least 28 days before any election.
- 60     **Voters in line at closing.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to the ability of voters in line to vote at a polling place at the time designated for the polling place to close.
- 61     **Persons allowed near polling place.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to the persons who may be present within 100 feet of a building where a polling place is located.
- 62     **Individuals allowed in polling place; identification.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to persons who may be present inside a polling place.
- 63     **Peace officers.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to the presence of peace officers in a polling place.
- 64     **Voter’s Bill of Rights.**  
Eliminates a reference to a prohibition on a candidate assisting a voter in marking a ballot. This change conforms to a court decision declaring this prohibition unconstitutional.  
  
This section also adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration as part of the Voter’s Bill of Rights.
- 65     **Counting and initialing.**  
Eliminates a reference to election judges initialing the “backs of” all ballots in a precinct. The initialing requirement still remains, but does not specify where the initials must be placed.
- 66     **Polling place roster; voter signature certificate; voter receipt.**  
As part of a voter’s affirmation of eligibility that is signed on the polling place roster, adds a reference to a voter’s maintenance of residence at a designated “location” rather than an “address.”

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- 67      **Outside the polling place.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to the options for voters to cast a ballot from their motor vehicle outside of a polling place location.
- 68      **Voting lines.**  
Modifies language related to how assistance may be provided to a voter by two election judges. Among the changes, assistance may only be provided at the request of the voter, and the types of assistance may include going through the lines to register to vote, to update the voter’s registration, and to vote.
- 69      **Information requirements.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to the content of a precinct summary statement.
- 70      **County canvass.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to the content of the county canvassing board report prepared following the state primary election.
- 71      **County canvass.**  
Provides grammatical changes and adds a reference to “updating” a voter registration, in a section of statute related to the content of the county canvassing board report prepared following the state general election.
- 72      **Vacancy filled at general election.**  
In special elections to fill a vacant seat in the legislature on the date of the state general election, requires that the filing period for the vacancy to be concurrent with the filing period for the general election when practicable. If that filing period is not possible, the period must be at least five days and no more than ten days in length, excluding holidays.
- 73      **Special election when legislature will be in session.**  
Amends the law governing special elections to fill a vacant seat in the legislature, when a legislative session will be active and the person elected can be seated and exercise duties immediately. The candidate filing period would newly be required to be at least three days in length, excluding holidays, and the special election must not be held during the two days before or after a holiday, rather than prohibiting the special election during the four days before or after a holiday as required in current law.

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**74 Special election at other times.**

In special elections to fill a vacant seat in the legislature that do not occur simultaneously with a state general election, and in which the elected candidate cannot immediately be seated in an active legislative session, specifies that the candidate filing period be at least five days and no more than ten days in length, excluding holidays.

**75 Date of special election; certain times prohibited.**

Narrows the window of time around a holiday during which a special election to fill a vacant legislative seat is not permitted. Under current law, a special election must not be held during the four days before or after a holiday. This section instead provides that a special election must not be held during the two days before or after a holiday.

**76 Affidavit of candidacy.**

Provides requirements for a municipal clerk's notification of candidate names to the elections official responsible for preparing the ballot for a municipal general election.

**77 Filing period.**

Modifies the required filing period for candidates running for office in a municipality that does not conduct a primary election, and which conducts its election in November. The filing period is required to be between 98 and 112 days prior to the November election, rather than between 84 and 98 days prior to the election.

This change is effective January 1, 2026.

**78 Affidavit of candidacy.**

Provides requirements for a school district clerk's notification of candidate names to the elections official responsible for preparing the ballot for a school district general election.

**79 Filing period.**

Modifies the required filing period for candidates running for office in a school district that does not conduct a primary election, and which conducts its election in November. The filing period is required to be between 98 and 112 days prior to the November election, rather than between 84 and 98 days prior to the election.

This change is effective January 1, 2026.

**80 Combined polling place.**

Provides an exemption to the current requirement that a school district may only designate a combined polling place at a location that is also designated for use as a

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polling place by a county or municipality. In locations where the municipality conducts elections entirely by mail, the school board may designate a polling place that is not used by that municipality, so long as the location meets all other requirements of law.

**81 Testing of voting systems.**

Expands the notice requirement for the testing of voting systems, so that public notice is required to be given at least five days prior to the test, rather than two days prior. Other grammatical changes are also provided, along with elimination of an obsolete reference to “punched” ballots.

This change is effective September 1, 2025.

**82 Prohibited connections.**

Requires that a password used to access any ballot recording or tabulating system be kept in a safe and secure place in the precinct so that it is not accessible to or visible by the public.

**83 Exceptions.**

Requires that candidates seeking access to an apartment building or other multi-unit facility for the purpose of campaigning must be provided access at least during the hours of 9 a.m. through 9 p.m. of any day.

**84 Notice to residents.**

Encourages the owner, manager, or operator of a multiple unit dwelling to notify residents of the days on which a candidate has provided notice of an intent to be present.

**85 Towns may be dissolved.**

Modifies requirements related to a public vote to dissolve a town that applies in Cass, Itasca, and St. Louis Counties.

**86 Ballot questions.**

Extends the deadline for a special county election to be declared, to require the election within 84 days, rather than 74 days, after the resolution declaring the election is adopted.

**87 Elections of municipal officers.**

Requires the use of uniform election dates and ballot preparation laws when a municipal officer election occurs as a result of a local government incorporation or consolidation.

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**88 Candidates; ballots; certifying election.**

Establishes a canvassing requirement for hospital board elections. The affected hospital board is designated to act as the canvassing board.

**89 Transition to new voter registration applications; absentee ballot applications.**

Permits voter registration application forms that were printed or provided to a voter prior to July 1, 2025, to continue to be used, notwithstanding the changes to the form required by this article. An election official must not print or copy a form that does not include the changes required by this article on or after July 1, 2025.

**90 Repealer.**

Repeals the following:

**Section 204B.25, subdivision 3:** This subdivision currently permits untrained election judges to serve in precincts where fewer than 100 individuals voted in the last state general election.

**Section 206.57, subdivision 5b:** This subdivision provides for a township voting equipment study that expired in 2016.

**Section 206.95:** This section establishes a voting equipment grant account.

**91 Effective date.**

Provides that this article is effective July 1, 2025, unless otherwise specified.



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