

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 497

DATE: February 23, 1999

Version: As introduced

Authors: Rest and others

Subject: Runoff elections for Legislative, Constitutional, and Congressional Offices

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Overview

Section 5 of the bill creates a runoff election for legislative, constitutional, and congressional offices if no candidate receives a majority of the vote for the office at a general or special election. In section 1, the bill increases spending limits for a chapter 10A candidate who has a runoff. In section 5, subdivision 2, it provides an additional public subsidy for the runoff. The rest of the bill makes conforming amendments to the election code.

1 Maximum expenditures. Increases spending limits for a candidate who agrees to them and has a runoff election. Gives such a candidate 15 percent more than the regular spending limit for the office.

2 Absentee ballots; preparation; delivery. Provides for delivering absentee ballots to election officials and to absent voters who received ballots for the general or special election as soon as practicable after the general or special election.

3 County canvass. Amends this statute to cross reference the runoff possibility.

4 State canvass. Moves the state canvassing board from the second Tuesday after the general election to the second Friday after the election.

5 Runoff election.

Subd. 1. Procedure. Requires a runoff election for the top two vote getters if no one candidate receives a majority of the vote cast for a senator or representative in congress or the legislature or a constitutional office. Requires the secretary of state to certify the runoff candidate immediately after the state canvass. A runoff following the state general election would be held the sixth Tuesday after that election. A runoff following a special election would be held the second Tuesday after the special election.

The runoff ballot will be prepared by the same officials who prepare the general or special election ballot and it will be in the same form, except it will not have space for write-in candidates.

The runoff election is held in the same manner as a general or special election.

The county canvassing board must complete its work on the next day, excluding Sundays and legal holidays, after the runoff. The state canvassing board must complete its canvass within seven days after the runoff.

Subd. 2. Public subsidy. Requires the board of campaign finance and public disclosure to pay each runoff candidate, who agreed to spending limits in the general or special election preceding the runoff, an additional public subsidy equal to 15 percent of the subsidy paid to that candidate in the general or special election from the state elections campaign fund .