HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 532   **DATE:** February 25, 2000
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     Authors: Orfield

     Subject: Elected Metropolitan Council

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Overview

This bill provides for the election of the 16 metropolitan council members beginning in 2003. The metropolitan council would redistrict the metropolitan area after each federal decennial census. A candidate would run on a nonpartisan basis at the same time as the state and county general election.

The metropolitan council's powers and duties are not changed.

1   **Definitions (appointments).** Strikes the metropolitan council from the list of agencies whose appointees must go through the open appointments process.

2   **Particular offices.** Requires the affidavit of candidacy for a metropolitan council member to include a statement that the candidate meets any other qualifications for the office prescribed by law.

3   **Candidates in state and county general elections.** Provides that candidates for the metropolitan council must file their affidavits of candidacy at the same time as other candidates for county, state, and federal office.

4   **Absent candidates.** Allows a metropolitan council candidate to file the affidavit of candidacy before the filing period if the candidate will be absent from the state during the filing period, the same as provided for candidates for county, state, and federal office.

5   **Candidates; filing fees; petition in place of filing fee.** Sets the filing fee for metropolitan council candidates at $50 and sets the number of signatures for a petition in place of a filing fee at 500, the same as for candidates for county office.

6   **Other election districts.** Adds the metropolitan council to the list of those local government election districts that must be redrawn within 80 days after the legislature has been redistricted, or at least 15 weeks before the state primary election in the year ending in 2.

7   **Allocation of election expenses.** Authorizes the secretary of state to allocate election expenses to the metropolitan council.

8   **Officers.** Provides that metropolitan council members will be elected at the state general election held in the year before their terms expire.

9   **State and county nonpartisan primary ballot.** Puts metropolitan council offices on the state and county nonpartisan canary ballot.

10   **Vacancy in office of metropolitan council member.** Identical to the provision for vacancy on a county board, under Minnesota Statutes, section 375.101, provides that a vacancy in the office of metropolitan council member must be filled at a special election scheduled by the metropolitan council on a date not less than 30 nor more than 60 days after the vacancy occurs. If a council member is unable to serve or attend council meetings for a 90-day period because of illness, absence, or refusal to attend, the council may declare a vacancy and make a temporary appointment to fill the vacancy until the ill or absent member is again able to attend.

11   **Special metropolitan council election.** Imposes deadlines for the state canvassing board to complete the canvass of a special election and for the filing of election contests and issuance of a certificate of election following a special election.

12   **Contestant; grounds.** Authorizes an election contest to be filed regarding an election to the metropolitan council.

13   **Candidate.** Makes metropolitan council candidates subject to the Fair Campaign Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes, chapter 211B.

14   **Eligibility.** Makes members of the elected metropolitan council eligible to participate in the public employees defined contribution retirement plan administered by the public employees retirement association.

15   **Creation.** Provides for metropolitan council members to be elected from districts and strikes references to a specified number of members.

16   **Chair; officers; selection; duties.** Requires the chair of the metropolitan council to be elected from among the members. The chair serves for one year.

17   **Performance and budget analyst.** Makes conforming amendments to the section relating to the metropolitan council's performance and budget analyst to reflect that the chair of the council would be elected from among the members.

18   **Metropolitan council elections.**

     Subd. 1. Number of members. Provides for 16 members.

     Subd. 2. Districts. (a) Provides for the metropolitan council to redraw its districts after the federal decennial census. Requires the districts to be of substantially equal population and follow town, municipal, ward, or precinct lines. Prohibits a metropolitan council district from including territory in more than one county unless necessary to meet equal-population requirements.

     (b) Requires the metropolitan council to redraw the council districts within the same time period required for counties and school districts (see section 6), and to publish three weeks' notice of its intent to redistrict, including information on the meeting where the matter will be considered. Requires the council to file the map of the new districts with the secretary of state.

     Subd. 3. Terms. Provides for members to serve staggered, four-year terms.

     Subd. 4. Contribution limits. Limits candidates to taking $300 contributions in election years and $100 in other years.

19   **Transition.** Continues the present metropolitan council until the first Monday in January 2003.

20   **Application.** Provides for the act to apply in the seven-county metropolitan area.

21   **Repealer.** Repeals Minnesota Statutes, section 473.123, subdivisions 2a, 3, 3a, and 3c, which relate to the terms and appointment of metropolitan council members, redistricting, and council district boundaries.

22   **Effective dates.** Makes act effective for the state primary in 2002 and thereafter.