

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Version:** First Engrossment

**Authors:** Rukavina and others

**Subject:** Annexation election

**Analyst:** Deborah A. Dyson, 651-296-8291

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### OVERVIEW

Provides procedures and criteria for when a referendum must be held for approval or disapproval of a proposed annexation. The referendum allows the voters and property owners in the affected area to approve or disapprove of the annexation. This bill is similar to the law that was repealed in 1992, except that: (1) the election is not automatic, but only held if a sufficient petition is brought in the specified time; and (2) if an election is held, it is held before the Minnesota municipal board hearing, not after.

(a) Provides that no referendum on the proposed annexation is required (1) if a majority of the property owners petitioned for the annexation, (2) if the city and the township both submitted resolutions to the Minnesota municipal board to have the entire township annexed to the city, or (3) if the annexation is to remedy or prevent environmental degradation as determined by the Minnesota pollution control agency.

(b) Specifies notice of proposed annexation to the property owners. Requires notice at least ten days before submission of the resolution of annexation to the Minnesota municipal board.

(c) Requires an election on the annexation if a petition of at least 35 percent of the property owners or 100 property owners, whichever is less, is submitted to the executive director of the Minnesota municipal board within 60 days after the resolution of annexation was submitted.

(d) Specifies notice for the election and the procedures.

(e) Provides that eligible voters and other property owners in the area designated by the board can vote on the referendum.

(f) Describes the ballot. Requires the annexing city and the township to share equally the costs of election ballots, supplies and election judges.

(g) Provides for the election judges to canvass and file the certificate with the executive director of the board.

(h) Provides that if the vote is for annexation, the executive director must set a time and place for a hearing on the annexation, and if the vote is against annexation, the board may not consider the annexation.

(i) Prohibits initiating an annexation proceeding within two years if the vote is against annexation, unless the annexation is initiated by the property owners and supported by any abutting townships and cities.

(j) Directs the executive director to notify all parties of the election results.

(k) Provides that no election may be held on proposed annexations in the metropolitan area if the metropolitan council determines that the annexation is appropriate to (1) remedy or avoid environmental degradation, (2) implement a metropolitan system plan, or (3) construct a council-owned facility under a metropolitan system plan.