

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Bishop

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Analyst: Deborah A. Dyson

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Overview

This bill requires each town to hold a referendum every four years on whether the town should continue to exist as a governmental entity. If a town does not hold a referendum, the town is automatically dissolved. The referendum requires a vote of a majority of registered voters to maintain the town.

Section

1 **Referendum on continued town existence.**

Subd. 1. Applies to all towns. States this section applies to every organized town.

Subd. 2. Town board may call election. Requires every town board to consider whether to place the question of the town's continued existence on the town's general election ballot, beginning in 2002 and every four years after that. Under subdivision 10 the effect of choosing not to put the question on the ballot is automatic dissolution.

Subd. 3. Ballot question. Specifies the ballot question.

Subd. 4. Election time, formalities. Provides for the election to be conducted as provided in other law.

Subd. 5. Information on financial impact. Requires a county to provide to voters information on the financial impact of transferring the town's functions to the county.

Subd. 6. Majority needed for town government to go on. Requires a majority of registered voters to vote to continue the town.

Subd. 7. Effect of less than majority for continued existence. If the ballot question fails, the town's governmental functions are transferred to the county on the next January 1.

Subd. 8. Details of dissolution. Provides for other laws governing dissolution of towns to apply unless this section addresses the issue.

Subd. 9. Familiar town names preserved. Provides for the place name to continue to be used after dissolution.

Subd. 10. If town board avoids quadrennial election. Provides for automatic dissolution of a town if the town board decides not to put the question on the ballot every fourth year as provided in subdivision 2.