HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 471   **DATE:** March 13, 2003

      Version: First Engrossment

      Authors: Knoblach and others

      Subject: School Primaries Required

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Overview

Currently, school districts may choose to have a nonpartisan primary. The bill requires all school districts to hold a nonpartisan primary if there are more than twice the number of candidates than the number who will be elected.

Section

1   **Required primary in certain circumstances.** Strikes the current optimal school primary provision. Requires a primary if there are more than two candidates for a specific school board position or over twice as many candidates as will be elected to an at-large board.

2   **Candidates, filing.** Amends the statute on the school primary ballot to conform.

3   **Results.** Amends the school primary returns statute to conform

4   **Filing period.** Technical conforming amendment.

5   **Effective date.** Makes the bill apply immediately to the St. Cloud school district. It takes effect January 1, 2004, for all other school districts and applies to school elections beginning in 2004.