

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill extends certain privileges related to employment leave and public meetings and facilities to major party precinct caucuses held in a first-class city during an odd-numbered year.

Section

- 1 Other caucuses.** Extends certain privileges related to precinct caucuses to include caucuses held in a first-class city during an odd-numbered year. This would, in effect, grant caucuses held to select candidates for local offices the same leave and scheduling privileges provided in existing law. Currently those privileges only apply to precinct caucuses held on a single date in a state general election year (the even-numbered year).

The provisions of this bill apply to a major party precinct caucus held in a first class city. Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth are first-class cities. The Democratic-Farmer-Labor, Independence, and Republican parties qualify as major parties in Minnesota.

Employment Leave. An employer would be required to grant leave to an employee, upon ten days notice, to attend a major party precinct caucus held in a first class city during an odd numbered year. The employer would be permitted to deduct salary or wages for the actual time the employee is absent from work, but is prohibited from otherwise penalizing the employee.

Public Meetings. On the night of a major party precinct caucus in a first class city, the following activities are prohibited after 6:00 p.m.:

- (1) local government meetings;
- (2) Events at the University of Minnesota and a Minnesota State Colleges and Universities campus, unless prior approval is granted by the Board of Regents or Board of Trustees;

- (3) Events at a public school; and
- (4) state public meetings.

Use of Buildings. Public schools must be available for holding a major party precinct caucus if the school has received a written request at least 30 days prior to the date of the caucus.

All state and local public agencies, including the University of Minnesota, may charge for use of their facilities for a precinct caucus, but may not charge more than the lowest rate charged to any other public or private group.