

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill permits municipalities to adopt new ward boundaries in the year ending in one, regardless of whether the legislature has completed its redistricting plan by that time.

Section

- 1** **Cities with wards.** Requires that new ward boundaries be established in a city where council members are elected by ward in the year ending in one at least 14 days before the filing period opens for city council candidates.

The boundaries may be modified after the legislature has been redistricted, but such a change may not increase or decrease the population size of a ward by more than five percent.
- 2** **Voter's rights.** Modifies the section of law specifying a voter's right to petition for review of a redistricting plan to include review of new ward boundaries established in a year ending in one.
- 3** **Boundary changes; exception.** Establishes an exception to the general prohibition on modification of election precincts during a -0 year until the legislature has restricted. The exception permits the precincts to be modified consistent with the procedures established in section 1 of the bill.
- 4** **Boundary change procedure.** Requires a change in the boundaries of an election precinct to be adopted at least ten weeks before the date of the next election. A change may not take effect until the modifications have been publicly posted for at least 56 days. This is a shorter timeline than exists in current law, which requires adoption of new boundaries at least 90 days prior to an election, and public posting for at least 60 days.

Boundary changes affecting a state primary or general election may not be made after June 1 of a general election year.

- 5 **General provisions (cities of the first-class).** Requires that all members of a city council must stand for election at the first municipal election scheduled following a redistricting of boundaries based on new federal census figures, if the redistricting increases the population size of city council ward by five percent or more. This section would require a municipal general election to be held in either the year ending in “2” or “3,” even if such an election is not regularly scheduled during one of those years. The section only applies in first class cities where the city council members are elected by ward to four-year unstagged terms. As a result, under the current structure only Minneapolis and St. Paul would be subject to the requirements of this bill.
- 6 **Effective date.** Provides that new ward boundaries adopted by a municipality in a year ending in one are effective on the date of the primary election in that year. New ward boundaries are otherwise effective on the date of the state primary in the year ending in two.
- 7 **Effective date.** Provides that the modifications contained in this bill are effective the day following final enactment.