

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Hansen and McNamara

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Analyst: Matt Gehring, 651-296-5052

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Overview

This bill mandates soil and water conservation districts in the seven-county metropolitan area elect supervisors by district.

Section

1 Supervisors elected by districts. Requires soil and water conservation supervisors, in metro-area districts, to be elected by supervisor district.

Under current law, soil and water conservation district boards are permitted to choose whether to elect supervisors by district, or at-large. However, even in districts where supervisors are currently elected at-large, supervisor districts exist for purposes of nominating candidates to be voted upon at the election. Nomination districts are not required to comply with equal population requirements.

By mandating that supervisor districts be used for purposes of electing candidates in metro-area districts, the bill would subject these districts to the requirements in existing law related to establishing election districts, including that the districts be compact and contiguous geographic territory, and that they be “substantially equal in population.”

Of the seven metro-area counties that would be subject to the changes in this bill, two (Washington and Hennepin) currently provide for elections by supervisor district. The remaining counties (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Ramsey, and Scott) currently elect supervisors at-large.

The bill would be effective for elections occurring on or after January 1, 2015.