

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 224
Version: As introduced

DATE: February 4, 2013

Authors: Erickson, R. and others

Subject: Mail balloting

Analyst: Matt Gehring, 651-296-5052

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/.

Overview

This bill permits all townships, regardless of size, and cities with fewer than 1,000 registered voters located outside of a metropolitan-area county to conduct local and state elections by mail. Current law limits use of vote-by-mail procedures to municipalities that are not within a metropolitan county and have fewer than 400 voters. The bill also expands the authorization for an individual precinct in any municipality to be designated a mail balloting precinct.

When an election is conducted using mail balloting, the only physical polling location on election day is the office of the municipal clerk, where voters may cast their ballot using accessible voting equipment, and/or deposit their ballot in a secure box (if they have not returned the ballot by mail).

Section

- 1 Authorization.** Expands the authorization for municipalities to conduct mail balloting by permitting this procedure for townships of any size, and cities with fewer 1,000 voters and not located within a metropolitan county.

This section additionally allows the governing body of any municipality to designate an individual precinct for mail balloting if the precinct has fewer than 100 registered voters. Current law permits this designation in precincts with fewer than 50 voters.
- 2 Appropriation.** Appropriates money in fiscal year 2014 for the secretary of state to develop functionality within the statewide voter registration system to facilitate processing and tracking of mail ballots.