

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Counties: allowing counties to change certain elected offices to appointed positions

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Section 4 amends the law providing for optional forms of county government. It provides that a county may change the elected offices of recorder, auditor, treasurer or auditor-treasurer into appointed positions, after notice and the opportunity for the public to comment at a regular county board meeting, and subject to an 80 percent vote of the county board, and reverse referendum. It also provides for the current officeholders to complete the terms to which they were elected before the offices are made appointed positions. Finally, it includes procedures for reverting to election for the offices.

Current general law allows a county to change these elected offices to appointed positions but only after a referendum approving the change is passed.

Over the years, 25 counties have been authorized to make these changes by special law, under substantially the same conditions. For more information, see “County Offices: Combining or Making Appointed” <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/cntyoff.pdf>

Sections 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 make conforming changes.