

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill extends a study of the use of electronic rosters in polling places to include the 2014 general election in select jurisdictions, and provides statutory authorization for all jurisdictions to implement electronic rosters for elections held on or after January 1, 2015.

Article 1: Electronic Roster Study

Section

1 Electronic Roster Study. Establishes a study to test the use of electronic rosters during the 2014 state general election. The study is, effectively, an extension of the pilot project and work of the Electronic Roster Task Force that was authorized during the 2013 session, and is consistent with the recommendations contained in the task force's report.

Subd. 1. Established. Establishes the pilot project and sets parameters for its scope. Electronic rosters in participating municipalities may be used for election day registration, to verify preregistered voters, or both.

Subd. 2. Participating cities. Specifies the jurisdictions that may participate in the project. Precincts located in Baxter, Brainerd, Dilworth, Eagan, Lakeville, Mankato, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Moorhead, St. Anthony, St. Paul, and Sylvan Township are authorized to participate.

Subd. 3. Technology requirements. Sets minimum standards for the functionality of equipment used as an electronic roster for purposes of this study.

Subd. 4. Minnesota election law; other law. Provides that all provisions of the

Section

Minnesota election law continue to apply to a precinct participating in the electronic roster pilot project, so far as practicable. This includes provisions related to voters voting under the Safe at Home program and voters voting by absentee ballot.

Subd. 5. Election records retention. Specifies that all voter signature certificates and voter registration applications printed from an electronic roster must be retained on material that will continue to be legible for the retention required for other election records under current law. Data on election day registrants must be uploaded to the statewide voter registration system for processing by county auditors.

Subd. 6. Election day. Requires that precincts use electronic rosters for election day registration and to process preregistered voters, and specifies the procedure for reconciling the number of ballots to be counted. A paper backup system is required in the event the election judges are unable to use the electronic roster.

Subd. 7. Evaluation. Requires the secretary of state to requisition an empirical evaluation of the use of electronic rosters in the study. Requirements of the evaluation are provided, including submission to the Legislature by April 1, 2015.

Subd. 8. Build or buy analysis. Requires the secretary of state, in conjunction with MN.IT and in consultation with the Minnesota Association of County Officers and the League of Minnesota Cities to analyze the merits of a state-built electronic roster system compared to the merits of an electronic roster system purchased from a private vendor. A report on this analysis must be provided to the legislature by April 2015.

Subd. 9. Use of electronic rosters in nonparticipating municipalities. Provides that municipalities not included in the study are not prohibited from also using electronic rosters at the 2014 general election, if the municipality notifies the secretary of state by August 1, and certifies to the secretary by October 1 that the system is consistent with the functionality requirements of this section.

Subd. 10. Expiration. Provides that the study expires upon submission of the build or buy analysis report to the legislature in April 2015.

2 Appropriation. Appropriates money to the secretary of state in fiscal year 2015 to carry out the requirements of this article. Certain amounts are designated for particular portions of the study.

3 Effective date. Provides that this article is effective the day following final enactment.

Article 2: Electronic Roster Authorization

Section

1 Electronic Roster Authorization. Authorizes counties, municipalities, and school districts to use electronic rosters for any election.

Section

Subd. 1. Authority. Authorizes the implementation of electronic rosters, in all or a portion of the precincts in the jurisdiction.

Subd. 2. Technology requirements. Sets minimum standards for the functionality of electronic roster equipment.

Subd. 3. Minnesota election law, other law. Provides that all provisions of the Minnesota election law continue to apply to a precinct participating in the electronic roster pilot project, so far as practicable. This includes provisions related to voters voting under the Safe at Home program and voters voting by absentee ballot.

Subd. 4. Election records retention. Specifies that all voter signature certificates and voter registration applications printed from an electronic roster must be retained on material that will continue to be legible for the retention required for other election records under current law. Data on election day registrants must be uploaded to the statewide voter registration system for processing by county auditors.

Subd. 5. Election day. Authorizes the use of electronic rosters for election day registration, to process preregistered voters, or both, and requires review of printed voter registration applications when the electronic records are processed in the statewide registration system. This subdivision also specifies the procedure for reconciling the number of ballots to be counted. A paper backup system is required in the event the election judges are unable to use the electronic roster.

Subd. 6. Reporting; certification; preelection testing. Requires a jurisdiction intending to use electronic rosters to notify the secretary of state at least 90 days before the first election at which the rosters will be used, and requires a certification that the electronic roster system will meet the requirements of this section at least 30 days before the election occurs.

- 2** **Revisor's instruction.** Requires the revisor of statutes to add references to electronic rosters where necessary in the Minnesota election law.
- 3** **Effective date.** Provides that this article is effective July 1, 2014, for elections held on or after January 1, 2015.