HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill makes several modifications to the laws governing the administration of elections.

<u>Section</u>

1   **Election day registration.** Updates the phrasing required on the form used to vouch for a voter's residence to reflect that not all vouchers are "voters," and that the voucher may be an employee of a residential facility rather than someone registered to vote in the precinct.

2   **Registration files.** Authorizes the secretary of state, rather than local elections officials, to maintain voter registration data on voters participating in the Safe at Home address confidentiality program.

3   **Corrected list.** Updates the time that a master list of voters needs to be prepared for absentee voting purposes to reflect the recent extension of the absentee voting period, which now begins 46 days prior to the election.

4   **Transmitting ballots.** Specifies circumstances under which absentee ballots to a uniformed or overseas absentee voter must be transmitted immediately by express mail.

5   **Write-in candidates.** Establishes a pre-primary deadline for requesting that votes for a write-in candidate for a county, state, or federal office be counted.

6   **Individuals not qualified to be election judges.** Clarifies that the current law, which prohibits parents of a candidate or another election judge in a precinct from serving as an election judge in the precinct, also applies to step-parents.

Section

7	**Procedure (mail ballots).** Permits mail ballots to be opened beginning the seventh day prior to the election date, rather than beginning the fourth day prior to the election as provided in current law.

This change conforms the timing of mail balloting procedures to the timing for opening and processing absentee ballots.

8   **Mail elections; questions.** Permits ballots submitted in a ballot question election conducted by mail to be opened beginning the seventh day prior to the election date, rather than beginning the fourth day prior to the election as provided in current law.

This change conforms the timing of mail election procedures to the timing for opening and processing absentee ballots.

9   **Voter's bill of rights.** Conforms the language of the voter's bill of rights to more accurately reflect the right of a voter to be absent from work for purposes of voting as provided in section 204C.04. That right applies only to voting at federal and state elections.

10   **Summary statements.** Updates a terminology reference to eliminate obsolete language that refers to ballots by their color.

11   **Order of offices.** Updates a terminology reference to eliminate obsolete language that refers to ballots by their color.

12   **Order of political parties.** Updates a terminology reference to eliminate obsolete language that refers to ballots by their color.

13   **Titles for constitutional amendments.** Updates a terminology reference to eliminate obsolete language that refers to ballots by their color.

14   **City council members; expiration of terms.** Provides that city council members in a charter city hold office until their successors qualify. Similar language exists in statute related to city council members in statutory cities.

15   **Affidavit of candidacy.** Clarifies that the form of an affidavit of candidacy for municipal elections must be the same as required for other elective offices.

16   **Questions.** Prohibits a school district special election from being conducted within 30 days of a regularly scheduled March town election, including the town election date itself, if the town is wholly or partially within the school district.

17   **Removal election form of question.** Specifies the form of the question that must appear on the ballot to recall a state elected official.

18   **Form of ballot.** Specifies the form of the question that must appear on the ballot to move certain county offices from elected to appointed positions.