

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

Current law provides a process for political parties to be granted “major party” status or “minor party” status for purposes of Minnesota law. Parties that achieve either of these status designations are eligible to issue political contribution refund receipts and can receive public subsidies through the state’s income tax check-off program. If a party is designated as a “major party” it receives other rights and protections under the law, including the ability to nominate election judges and place challengers in a polling place, and the ability to elect nominees at the state partisan primary.

One option in the process for achieving either “major” or “minor” party designation is filing a petition with the secretary of state requesting that status. The petition must contain signatures representing a certain percentage of voters voting in the last general election (5% for major status, 1% for statewide minor status, and 10% for minor status in a single legislative district).

This bill provides that the signature provided on a petition for major or minor party status must be valid, and must have been obtained no earlier than January 1 of the year the petition is filed.