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### Overview

This bill contains the secretary of state's election administration proposal for 2015. The bill provides a number of miscellaneous changes to the laws governing voter registration, absentee voting, recounts, and other general election administration procedures.

#### Section

- 1**      **School board membership.** Modifies a procedural standard related to the transition and elimination of an office, when the voters of a school district have voted to reduce the size of the school board from seven members to six members.
- 2**      **Partisan offices.** Defines "partisan offices" to include federal offices, presidential electors, constitutional offices, and state legislative offices. This term is used in various chapters of the laws governing elections.
- 3**      **Nonpartisan offices.** Defines "nonpartisan offices" to include judicial, county, municipal, school district, and special district offices. This term is used in various chapters of the laws governing elections.
- 4**      **Form (voter registration application).** Eliminates a requirement that the paper form of a voter registration application be of suitable size and weight for mailing.
- 5**      **Use of Department of Public Safety data.** Eliminates obsolete language, related to certain citizenship data that are provided to counties from the secretary of state.

A requirement that the data be provided at least monthly is moved and retained in the existing law.

## Section

- 6 Delivery of envelopes; directions (absentee voting).** Updates references to reflect the preparation of an “audio file” rather than a “cassette tape” for voters who request absentee voting instructions in an accessible format.
- 7 Marking and return by voter (absentee).** Permits a voter to return their own absentee ballot, in person, on election day. Current law provides that, if a voter’s absentee ballot is returned on election day, it must be delivered by an agent.
- This change is consistent with the enactment of “no excuse” absentee voting in 2014.
- 8 Procedures on receipt of ballots (absentee).** Clarifies procedures for accepting or rejecting absentee ballots that are delivered by the voter on election day, or that are delivered by a package delivery service.
- 9 Duties of ballot board; absentee ballots.** Permits an absentee ballot to be accepted if the identification number provided by the voter on their return ballot matches the number provided on either the voter’s absentee ballot application, or on the voter’s registration record.
- Current law requires that the identification numbers on the return ballot and the ballot application match, and does not permit verification with the voter’s registration record.
- 10 Submission of application (military absentee voters).** Eliminates obsolete language related to submission of a Social Security number in place of a military identification number, on an absentee ballot application submitted by a military voter. Social Security numbers are no longer required on the application.
- 11 Address and telephone number (private data on affidavits of candidacy).** Allows a candidate to request that the candidate’s address be classified as private data on the affidavit of candidacy, if the address is already classified that way under another provision of law.
- Current law only permits the candidate’s address to be classified as private if a police report or court order has been entered related to the safety of the candidate or the candidate’s family.
- 12 High school students (election judges).** Permits high school students to serve as trainee election judges in any county, instead of only in the county in which the student resides.
- 13 Procedure (mail balloting).** Conforms the timeline for processing ballots received in an election conducted entirely by mail to the same timeline for processing absentee ballots.
- 14 Elections covered.** Provides that the existing allowance for a voter to take time off from work in order to vote extends to all regularly-scheduled elections, including local elections.
- 15 Voter’s Bill of Rights.** Updates the “Voter’s Bill of Rights” to reflect the expansion of the right to take time off from work in order to vote to all regularly-scheduled elections.
- 16 Publicly-funded recounts (federal and state).** Provides a more specific deadline for making a written request for a publicly-funded recount of a federal or state election. Current law provides that the request must be received 48 hours after the election is canvassed. This section would require the request to be received by 5:00 p.m. on the second day after the canvass.

## Section

- 17 Discretionary candidate recounts (federal and state).** Provides additional procedures to prevent a delay in the results of an election, if a discretionary recount is requested by a candidate. The discretionary recount of a primary election is prohibited from delaying the delivery of a notice of nomination to the winning candidate, and the results of any recount must be certified by the canvassing board “as soon as possible.”
- 18 Publicly-funded recounts (local).** Provides a more specific deadline for making a written request for a publicly-funded recount of a local election. This section would require the request to be received by 5:00 p.m. on the last day a recount may be requested. The deadline for requesting a recount is provided in existing law.
- 19 Discretionary candidate recounts (local).** Provides additional procedures to prevent a delay in the results of an election, if a discretionary recount is requested by a candidate. The discretionary recount of a primary election is prohibited from delaying the delivery of a notice of nomination to the winning candidate, and the results of any recount must be certified by the canvassing board “as soon as possible.”
- 20 Time of issuance; certain offices.** Eliminates language that prohibits issuance of an election certificate to a winning candidate, if an election contest is pending.
- 21 Certificate of legislative election.** Requires the secretary of state to deliver the certificate of election following a special election for a legislative office directly to the chief clerk of the house of representatives, or the secretary of the senate.
- Current law requires the certificate to be provided to the individual declared elected. The change contained in this section would conformed to procedures for delivering certificates of election in regularly-scheduled elections.
- 22 Notice filed with court.** Eliminates an unused reference to “other questions voted on statewide,” in a section related to election contest procedure. The only questions voted on statewide are proposed constitutional amendments, which are referenced separately in this provision of law.
- 23 Notice served on parties.** Eliminates an unused reference to “other questions voted on statewide,” in a section related to election contest procedure. The only questions voted on statewide are proposed constitutional amendments, which are referenced separately in this provision of law.
- 24 Statewide offices and questions.** Eliminates an unused reference to “other questions voted on statewide,” in a section related to election contest procedure. The only questions voted on statewide are proposed constitutional amendments, which are referenced separately in this provision of law.
- 25 Repealer.** Repeals the following provisions of law:  
**204B.14, subdivision 6**, which provides a requirement that election precinct boundaries follow a census block line for the two years following the decennial census, and that the precincts then follow visible features that are clearly recognizable from the grounds (such as a street, river, shoreline, or railway).  
**204C.30, subdivision 1**, which requires counties to deliver a copy of election result summary statements to the secretary of state.