HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

March 29, 2016

DATE:

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2959

Version: As introduced

Authors: McNamara and others

Subject: Absentee voting methods

Analyst: Matt Gehring, 651-296-5052

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/.

Overview

This bill permits county auditors to provide an alternate method for in-person absentee voting that would be similar to voting in a polling place on election day: under the alternate method, a voter would be permitted to complete an absentee ballot and deposit it directly in a ballot box.

The "standard" absentee voting process requires an absentee voter—including those voting in person at a polling place designated by the county auditor—to seal their completed ballot in an envelope to await processing by a ballot board at a later date.

Whether the alternate method of absentee voting is permitted would be a decision of each county auditor. If the option is provided, it must be available during the seven days immediately prior to an election. Each voter would be allowed to choose the method of in person absentee voting they prefer to use.