

Subject Omnibus State Government, Military Affairs, and Veterans Affairs Finance
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Overview

This bill is the omnibus state government, military affairs, and veterans affairs finance bill. It includes appropriations and related policy changes within the jurisdiction of the State Government Finance Division, as well as appropriations and related policy within the jurisdiction of the Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy Division.

Article 1: State Government Appropriations

This article provides various appropriations to the departments, boards, agencies, and commissions within the jurisdiction of the State Government Finance Committee.

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1 - 35	Appropriations. Appropriations and riders for various agencies within the accounts managed by the State Government Finance Committee are described in the fiscal spreadsheet.
36	Appropriation; secretary of state; court ordered attorney fees. Provides an appropriation of \$1.29 million to the secretary of state for the purpose of paying attorney's fees awarded against the state in the case <i>Minnesota Voters Alliance v. Mansky</i> . This is the case challenging the state law regulating campaign apparel in polling places; the law was declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2018.
37	Contracts for professional or technical services. Requires the commissioner of management and budget to reduce total general fund appropriations across all state agencies by at least \$890,000, to reflect a reduction in professional and technical services contracts, during the 2020-21 biennium. Certain exceptions are provided.
38	Help America Vote Act transfers and appropriations. Appropriates federal election security funds to the secretary of state, and retroactively credits \$167,000 in state election security expenditures from fiscal years 2018 and 2019 toward the required state match to receive the federal funds. The secretary of state is

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authorized to spend the federal funds for a list of eligible activities outlined in the bill. The funds are available until March 23, 2023.

Article 2: State Government Operations

This article includes a variety of policy changes related to the operation of state and local government.

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1 Accessibility in the legislature’s information technology.

Requires the senate, house, and the joint offices and commissions of the legislature to comply with the information technology accessibility standards adopted by the state’s chief information officer, unless the responsible authority for the legislative body or office has approved an exception. A list of responsible authorities authorized to approve an exception is provided.

State agencies are currently required to comply with the standards that would be extended to the legislature by this bill.

This section does not authorize the Office of MN.IT Services to manage or direct the legislature’s compliance with these standards.

2 Expiration (Data Practices Commission).

Extends the expiration date of the Legislative Commission on Data Practices and Personal Data Privacy to June 30, 2026.

3 Expiration (Legislative Water Commission).

Extends the expiration of the Legislative Water Commission to July 1, 2025.

4 Display of business address on website.

Provides a mechanism to omit a business’ address from the secretary of state’s public website if the business entity has a single shareholder, member, manager, or owner and the business address is that person’s residential address. These changes only omit the address from public display on the website; the classification of the data as public under the Government Data Practices Act is unchanged.

5 Administrative law judge; salaries.

Aligns the salaries of the assistant chief administrative law judge and the administrative law judge supervisors in the Office of Administrative Hearings to the salary of a district court judge.

Section	Description – Article 2: State Government Operations
6	<p>Opportunity to make gifts via website.</p> <p>Requires the commissioner of management and budget to maintain a website that allows interested persons to make gifts of money to the state online. Historical data on giving must be included on the website.</p>
7	<p>Employee salaries and benefits in the event of state government shutdown.</p> <p>Provides a statutory appropriation for state employee salary and benefits in the event of a state government shutdown, unless expressly superseded by a later-enacted law. A reimbursement payment for lost salary and benefits would be made upon the employee's return to work. Employees in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches are included.</p>
8	<p>Employee gainsharing system.</p> <p>Amends the state employee gainsharing program requirements. An employee would be entitled to an award only upon a suggestion that is implemented and results in a reduction in the costs of operating state government. The requirements of an existing biannual legislative report are reduced, and the report is converted to an annual report. If sufficient funding is not available to fund the entire program, a pilot program is required.</p>
9	<p>Capitol flag program.</p> <p>Establishes a program to provide a U.S. and Minnesota state flag flown over the State Capitol building to families of public safety officers killed in the line of duty, and families of members of the military who died while in active service. The program is administered by the Department of Administration. A July 1, 2020 effective date is provided.</p>
10	<p>Energy generation from renewable sources.</p> <p>Current law authorizes state agencies preparing a predesign for a new building to consider meeting at least two percent of the building's energy needs using wind or solar sources. The current law requires that those energy sources be located on the building site. This section eliminates the on-site requirement.</p>
11	<p>Solar energy system.</p> <p>Eliminates maximum kilowatt capacity requirements for solar energy systems supporting state buildings. A maximum cost for the system relative to the amount of appropriations provided for the project remains in place.</p>
12	<p>Office of Enterprise Sustainability.</p> <p>Establishes an Office of Enterprise Sustainability as a statutory entity within the Department of Administration. The office is required to engage in a number of activities to track and reduce the impacts of state government on the environment. The current office established for this purpose exists by executive order.</p>

Section	Description – Article 2: State Government Operations
13	<p>Website accessibility grants; advisory council.</p> <p>Establishes a grant program and advisory council, administered by the Department of Administration, to award grants to local governments to improve website accessibility.</p>
14	<p>Prohibiting state contracts with state sponsors of terrorism and foreign terrorist organizations.</p> <p>Requires state vendors to certify they do not engage in business with countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism or groups designated as foreign terrorist organizations. The commissioners of administration and management and budget must implement measures to meet the objective of this section and take steps necessary to ensure that vendors provide the certification required.</p>
15	<p>Restriction (state-owned optical fiber barter arrangements).</p> <p>In general, state contracting law prohibits agencies from entering contracts that are supported by a barter arrangement, with a few exceptions. This section adds contracts for state-owned optical fiber to the list of exceptions.</p> <p>In a barter arrangement, goods, services, or other nonmonetary consideration is directly exchanged between the contracting parties; there is no monetary exchange.</p>
16	<p>Conflict-free minerals.</p> <p>Establishes a presumption that a vendor is in compliance with required federal disclosures related to conflict minerals when entering a state contract. Exemptions are provided, including for contracts with a value of less than \$100,000 or if compliance is not practicable or in the best interest of the state. Notice of this standard must be included in solicitation for supplies or services.</p> <p>A “conflict mineral” is defined in the bill, and means a mineral or mineral derivative that finances human conflict, as determined by federal law. Examples of these types of minerals include coltan, cassiterite, gold, and wolframite.</p>
17	<p>Emergency acquisition.</p> <p>Authorizes the commissioner of administration to authorize expedited design and construction for publicly owned structures in the event of an emergency. Current law allows expedited repair, rehabilitation, and improvements to state-owned structures in an emergency, but does not allow for design or construction of new structures.</p>
18	<p>Eligibility; rules (targeted small business certifications).</p> <p>Authorizes the commissioner of administration to allow small businesses to be certified by a nationally recognized certifying organization in order to participate in the state’s small business and small targeted group business programs.</p>

Section	Description – Article 2: State Government Operations
19	Best and final offer. Clarifies that the best and final offer solicitation process may be used for building and construction contracts under the best value process, but not for competitively bid contracts.
20	Definitions (cloud computing). Defines the term “cloud computing” for purposes of the law governing the state’s information technology systems and services. A substantive section related to cloud computing follows.
21	Cloud computing services. Requires MN.IT to review cloud computing service options when evaluating information technology projects proposed by state agencies.
22	Technical support to the legislature. Requires the state’s chief information officer to provide technical support to the legislature to assist it in complying with the required accessibility standards. Specific types of assistance that must be provided are identified in the bill. The legislature may not be assessed a cost for these services.
23	User acceptance testing. Requires state agencies implementing new IT business software applications or functionalities to offer primary users an opportunity for user acceptance testing. The commissioner may determine that the testing is not feasible or necessary, in consultation with representatives of the primary users.
24	Federal funds; acts. Provides conforming statutory updates to fully implement the 2017 transfer of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) from the Minnesota Historical Society to the Department of Administration.
25	State Historic Preservation Office. Provides conforming statutory updates to fully implement the 2017 transfer of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) from the Minnesota Historical Society to the Department of Administration.
26	Administration of the act. Provides conforming statutory updates to fully implement the 2017 transfer of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) from the Minnesota Historical Society to the Department of Administration.

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27	Cooperation of state agencies; development plans. Provides conforming statutory updates to fully implement the 2017 transfer of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) from the Minnesota Historical Society to the Department of Administration.
28	Review process. Provides conforming statutory updates to fully implement the 2017 transfer of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) from the Minnesota Historical Society to the Department of Administration.
29	Cooperation. Provides conforming statutory updates to fully implement the 2017 transfer of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) from the Minnesota Historical Society to the Department of Administration.
30	Historic properties; changes. Provides conforming statutory updates to fully implement the 2017 transfer of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) from the Minnesota Historical Society to the Department of Administration.
31	Membership. Provides conforming statutory updates to fully implement the 2017 transfer of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) from the Minnesota Historical Society to the Department of Administration.
32	Schedule. Repeals a \$20 per year registration fee for the practice of hair braiding. The registration requirement is fully repealed later in the bill.
33	Hair braiders exempt. Provides that the practice of hair braiding is not subject to regulation or oversight by the Board of Cosmetologist Examiners.
34	Racing or gaming-related vendor. Defines “racing or gaming-related vendor” as a person or entity that manufactures, sells, provides, distributes, repairs, or maintains equipment used at a Class A facility or supplies or provides services to a Class A facility or Class B license holder that are directly related to the running of a horse race, simulcasting, pari-mutuel betting, or card playing.

Section	Description – Article 2: State Government Operations
35	<p>Qualifications.</p> <p>Eliminates the requirement that members of the Racing Commission file a bond in the sum of \$100,000 before taking a place on the commission.</p>
36	<p>Biennial report.</p> <p>Amends the commission’s reporting requirement from an annual report to a biennial report due on February 15 of each odd-numbered year.</p>
37	<p>Revocation and suspension.</p> <p>Requires notice before revocation or suspension of a class C license. Expands the time in which a license can be suspended for a violation of the law from one year to five years. Provides that, if the license expires during the term of suspension, the licensee must wait out the suspension period before applying for a new license. Requires appeals for suspensions lasting one year or less to be made to the commissioner. Provides that suspensions lasting more than one year and all revocations may be appealed by requesting a contested case hearing under chapter 14 and establishes notice requirements. Permits the commission to summarily suspend a license for up to 90 days where necessary to ensure the integrity of racing or to protect the public health, welfare, or safety. Provides for an appeal of a summary suspension.</p>
38	<p>License fees.</p> <p>Permits the commission to establish an annual license fee, not to exceed \$2,500, for each type of racing or gaming-related vendor.</p>
39	<p>License agreements.</p> <p>Permits the commission to enter into compacts, in addition to agreements, with comparable bodies in other racing jurisdictions.</p>
40	<p>Purses.</p> <p>Includes breakage in the amounts deducted from all pari-mutuel pools by a licensee. Provides that contracts and agreements related to purses under this section be reviewed by the commission. Permits the licensee to pay the horseperson’s organization representing the majority of the horsepersons racing the breed involved from breakage retained by the licensee from live or simulcast wagering as agreed between the licensee and organization.</p>
41	<p>Payments to state.</p> <p>Extends the deadline by which an authorized advance deposit wagering provider must pay the required regulatory fee from seven days to 15 days after the end of the month in which the wager was made.</p>

Section	Description – Article 2: State Government Operations
42	<p>Card club revenue.</p> <p>Requires agreements between the licensee and the relevant horseperson’s organization regarding amounts set aside for purse payments to be reviewed by the commission.</p>
43	<p>Disposition of proceeds; account.</p> <p>Appropriates money contained in the racing and card playing regulation account to the Minnesota Racing Commission for its ongoing operations, if a biennial budget is not otherwise enacted for the commission before a new fiscal biennium begins. This appropriation is capped at the amount the commission received in the second year of the prior biennium.</p> <p>This section also adds a technical reference to “regulatory fees” in directing how money received by the Racing Commission is distributed. This new reference reflects enactment of a regulatory fee related to advance deposit wagering that was enacted in 2016.</p>
44	<p>Reimbursement account credit.</p> <p>Provides technical and other modifications related to the racing reimbursement account in the special revenue fund. Among the changes is an allowance for funds in this account to be used by the Racing Commission to fulfill its regulatory oversight duties.</p> <p>This section also requires the commission to continue its operations even if a state budget has not been fully enacted prior to the start of a fiscal biennium.</p>
45	<p>Appropriation for functions supporting ongoing operation of the Racing Commission.</p> <p>Provides a statutory appropriation to fund the central administrative functions of the Racing Commission in the event a budget appropriating money for these functions is not enacted prior to the start of the fiscal biennium. The section includes technical language related to distribution of these funds.</p> <p>Subsequent appropriations enacted by law would replace funding provided to the commission under this section.</p>
46	<p>Powers and duties.</p> <p>Permits the commission to delegate the power to impose fines of up to \$10,000, suspensions of up to one year, and other sanctions permitted by rule to a board of stewards.</p>
47	<p>Appeals; hearings.</p> <p>Makes a conforming change with section 4 of the bill. Permits the commission to review any ruling by the board of stewards on its own initiative.</p>

Section	Description – Article 2: State Government Operations
48	<p>Thoroughbred and quarterhorse categories.</p> <p>Replaces a specific reference to the University of Minnesota School of Veterinary Medicine with a reference to public institutions of postsecondary learning in the state. Removes the requirement that an annual report from a grant recipient be sent to committees in the legislature. Makes a conforming change regarding the commission’s report. Permits money apportioned in the relevant category to be expended to pay breeders’ or owners’ awards at pari-mutuel racetracks licensed by any state or province.</p>
49	<p>Standardbred category.</p> <p>Eliminates the requirement that one-fourth of the money appropriated in the standardbred category be expended for the development of non-pari-mutuel standardbred tracks in the state.</p>
50	<p>Fines.</p> <p>Establishes that civil fines must be limited to \$50,000 for a class C licensee and \$200,000 for a class A, B, or D licensee. Provides that fines under \$10,000 can be appealed to the commissioner and fines over that amount can be appealed in a contested case hearing. Clarifies that fines may be used to support racehorse adoption, retirement, and repurposing through grants, contracts, or expenditures.</p>
51	<p>Exclusion of certain persons.</p> <p>Strikes the existing provisions related to ejecting individuals from racetracks and provides that a licensed racetrack may eject a person for any lawful reason. If the exclusion is for a suspected or potential violation of rule or law, or if the exclusion is for more than five days, the racetrack must provide information to the commissioner within 72 hours.</p>
52	<p>Reimbursement to commission.</p> <p>Clarifies that funds received by the Racing Commission to reimburse its costs for regulating card clubs are appropriated for use by the commission.</p>
53	<p>Plan development; criteria.</p> <p>Increases the maximum grant that may be provided under the Mighty Ducks grant program for projects that eliminate the use of R-22 refrigerant in state public ice facilities.</p> <p>The Mighty Ducks program provides grants to support improvements to public ice arenas, and to support increased access to ice arenas for women and girls. The law requires prioritization of rehabilitation and renovation projects that improve indoor air quality and eliminate the use of R-22 refrigerant.</p>

Section	Description – Article 2: State Government Operations
54	<p>Damages; illegal molestation of human remains; burials; cemeteries; penalty; assessment.</p> <p>Modifies standards for protecting American Indian cemeteries and burial features from inadvertent discovery or unearthing of human remains.</p>
55	<p>Attest.</p> <p>Modifies the definition of “attest” to include an audit performed in accordance with the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards.</p>
56	<p>Program of learning.</p> <p>Makes technical and conforming changes related to the practice of public accounting.</p>
57	<p>Fee.</p> <p>Makes technical and conforming changes related to the practice of public accounting.</p>
58	<p>[326A.045] Retired status.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Retired status requirements. Requires the board to grant retired status to a person who meets certain qualifications.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Retired status effect. Clarifies that retired status is honorific and does not allow the person to provide public accounting services.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Documentation of status. Requires the board to provide a document for those with retired status.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Representation to the public. Allows a person with retired status to represent themselves to the public in certain ways.</p> <p>Subd. 5. Continuing education not required. Clarifies that a person with retired status does not need to complete continuing education.</p> <p>Subd. 6. Renewal not required. Clarifies that a person with retired status does not need to renew their registration.</p> <p>Subd. 7. Change to active or inactive status. Requires the board to change a license status from retired to active or inactive if a person with retired status requests the change and meets the reactivation requirements.</p>
59	<p>Cease and desist orders.</p> <p>Allows service to be completed through a variety of United States mail services. Clarifies that service is complete upon placing the order in the mail or delivery, depending on the type of service.</p>

Section	Description – Article 2: State Government Operations
60	<p>Actions against persons or firms.</p> <p>Allows service to be completed through a variety of United States mail services. Clarifies that service is complete upon placing the order in the mail or delivery, depending on the type of service.</p>
61	<p>Actions against lapsed license, certificate, or permit.</p> <p>Allows the board to institute an enforcement action against a person or firm whose permit, registration, license, etc. is invalid. The enforcement proceeding must occur within two years of when the permit, registration, license, etc. was effective. The revocation or suspension order will be effective as of the last day the permit, registration, license, etc. was in effect. A civil penalty may be imposed pursuant to section 326A.08, subdivision 7.</p>
62	<p>Unlawful acts.</p> <p>Corrects a cross-reference and makes technical changes related to the practice of public accounting.</p>
63	<p>Former MERF members; member and employer contributions.</p> <p>In conjunction with the section that follows, provides statutory direction that increases the state’s payment to the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund (MERF) to \$16 million. Current law requires a \$6 million contribution to the fund in 2019 and thereafter.</p>
64	<p>State contributions; former MERF division.</p> <p>Provides statutory direction that increases the state’s payment to the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund (MERF) to \$16 million. Current law requires a \$6 million contribution to the fund in 2019 and thereafter.</p>
65	<p>Board to fill vacancies in county offices.</p> <p>Provides conforming changes related to the amendment to the law authorizing certain county officers to be appointed, rather than elected. The substantive change to the law is contained later in the bill.</p>
66	<p>Auditor-treasurer.</p> <p>Provides conforming changes related to the amendment to the law authorizing certain county officers to be appointed, rather than elected. The substantive change to the law is contained later in the bill.</p>
67	<p>Form of government options.</p> <p>Provides conforming changes related to the amendment to the law authorizing certain county officers to be appointed, rather than elected. The substantive change to the law is contained later in the bill.</p>

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68 **Appointing county officers.**

Subd. 1. Authority to appoint certain officers. Allows the county board to make an elected office an appointed position under this section if there is a vacancy in the office, the elected official agrees to appointment, or the elected office holder confirms that he or she will not run for election again.

Subd. 2. Responsibility of county officer. Requires an elected county officer to notify the county board 104 days before the filing date if the officer intends to run for office again or not. If not, and the county board has passed a resolution to make the office an appointed position, then the office will not be on the ballot.

Subd. 3. Board controls; may change as long as duties done. Requires the duties of an office made appointive to be discharged by the county board acting through a department head. Allows for reorganization, delegation, and administrative changes and specifies that any change does not diminish, prohibit, or avoid discharge of statutory duties.

Subd. 4. Discharge or demotion. Provides that an incumbent appointed to the office must not be involuntarily demoted or discharged except for incompetency or misconduct. Before demoting or discharging an incumbent, the board must notify the incumbent appointed. The incumbent appointed may require a hearing before an arbitrator. The arbitrator must determine, by a preponderance of the evidence, whether the discharge or demotion is supported by the grounds provided. The arbitration hearing must be a closed meeting unless the incumbent appointed requests the meeting to be open. If the arbitrator rules not to demote or discharge, the board must pay all costs and fees.

Subd. 5. Incumbents to complete term. Requires that the person elected to the office complete his or her term.

Subd. 6. Publishing resolution; petition; referendum. Requires the county board to publish notice of the proposal to make the office appointed, and to allow for public comment on the proposal at a regular meeting of the board before the resolution is adopted. The resolution must be approved by at least 80 percent of the members of the board and take effect after 30 days, unless a later date is provided in the resolution. If a sufficient petition requesting a referendum signed by at least ten percent of the registered voters in the county is filed within 30 days after the adoption of the resolution, the resolution is rescinded. A petition may not be accepted if the county officer to be appointed is the incumbent and has signed a contract for the appointment.

Subd. 7. Reverting to elected offices. Prohibits the board from reverting to elected offices within three years after making a position appointed. After notice and a hearing, the county board may adopt by a resolution to revert if approved by at least 60 percent of the board, effective on August 1 following the adoption, subject to reverse referendum. The question of whether to revert to elected offices must be placed on the ballot for the next general election if the position

Section Description – Article 2: State Government Operations

has been appointed for at least three years, a petition signed by ten percent of the registered voters in the county is submitted, and the petition is sufficient. If a majority of voters voting on the question vote in favor of reverting to electing the offices, elections for that office must be held at the next regular or special election.

69 Officers elected; terms.

Provides conforming changes related to the amendment to the law authorizing certain county officers to be appointed, rather than elected. The substantive change to the law is contained earlier in the bill.

70 Vacancies; how filled.

Provides conforming changes related to the amendment to the law authorizing certain county officers to be appointed, rather than elected. The substantive change to the law is contained later in the bill.

71 Meetings by telephone or other electronic means.

Authorizes the Duluth Port Authority to conduct meetings by telephone or other electronic means, consistent with the requirements of the Minnesota Open Meetings Law.

72 Employees, others, affirmative action; prevailing wage.

Updates a cross-reference related to the elimination of a salary cap for political subdivision employees. The substantive elimination of the cap is included later in the bill.

73 Access to multiunit facilities by United States Census employees.

Authorizes U.S. Census workers to access multiunit housing facilities (apartments, dormitories, nursing homes, and the like) for purposes of conducting official work during each decennial census.

74 Minnesota Census 2020 mobilization.

Requires the commissioner of administration to implement a Census 2020 Mobilization program. A component of the program is awarding grants to local governments and nonpartisan, nonprofit organizations engaged in census mobilization activities. A list of priority outreach and mobilization activities is included.

75 Legislative employee working group on the legislature's accessibility measures.

Establishes a working group of 12 legislative employees to research and submit a report to the legislature regarding its accessibility needs. A structure for appointing employees to the working group and a list of specific items for consideration is provided. The working group must convene its first meeting by July 15, 2019, and submit its report by January 15, 2020.

Section	Description – Article 2: State Government Operations
76	<p>Legislative Budget Office eliminated.</p> <p>Eliminates the Legislative Budget Office effective July 1, 2019. Existing employees must be offered reasonable opportunities for comparable employment in other offices of the legislature, to the extent practical.</p>
77	<p>World War I plaque.</p> <p>Requires a replacement plaque to be placed on the Capitol grounds to recognize all Minnesotans who served, at home and abroad, in World War I.</p>
78	<p>Capitol flag program study.</p> <p>Requires the commissioner of administration to study and develop recommendations to implement the Capitol flag program, established earlier in this bill. The study must include consultation with the Legislative Coordinating Commission, and the commissioners of veterans affairs, military affairs, and public safety. The results of the study must be reported to the legislature by January 15, 2020.</p>
79	<p>Maintenance and upkeep of State Office Building.</p> <p>Requires the commissioner of administration to enter a contract with the house of representatives for the maintenance and upkeep of the State Office Building, no later than January 1, 2020.</p>
80	<p>Minnesota Law Enforcement Association labor agreement.</p> <p>Ratifies the state’s labor contract with the Minnesota Law Enforcement Association for the contract period ending June 30, 2019.</p>
81	<p>Repealer.</p> <p>Repeals laws on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Subd. 1. Hair braiding. Laws governing the regulation and oversight of the practice of hair braiding by the Board of Cosmetologist Examiners.Subd. 2. Legislative Budget Office. Laws establishing the Legislative Budget Office and setting its duties.Subd. 3. Local government compensation limits. The law that sets a cap on the salary and benefits of political subdivision employees at no greater than 110 percent of the governor’s salary.

Article 3: State Payments Terminology

This article contains a number of technical updates to terminology related to the processing of state payments and the collection of debt owed to the state.

Section	Description – Article 3: State Payments Terminology
1 - 41	<p>State payments terminology.</p> <p>Provides a number of miscellaneous and technical changes to terminology related to the process for making payments to individuals, local governments, creditors, and other entities owed money from state accounts.</p> <p>Among these changes are allowances for the commissioner of management and budget to void an unpaid claim if the commissioner determines it is invalid (section 9), a requirement that the commissioner, along with the attorney general, establish internal guidelines for the collection of debt owed to the state (section 12), and new standards for legislative reporting of certain uncollectible debts (section 13).</p>

Article 4: Elections and Voting Rights

This article includes a variety of changes to laws that govern the process of election administration and voting.

Section	Description – Article 4: Elections and Voting Rights
1	<p>Data derived from driver’s license applications.</p> <p>Provides a cross-reference in the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act related to the privacy of data contained on an application for a driver’s license, state identification card, or learner’s permit that is transferred to the secretary of state, when the secretary determines that the applicant is not eligible to vote. These data are classified as private, under a new classification established later in this bill.</p>
2	<p>Appointments to fill (school board) vacancies; special elections.</p> <p>Allows members appointed to a school board in order to fill a vacancy to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. Existing law that directs a special election to be conducted in most circumstances is eliminated.</p>
3	<p>Transit service on election day.</p> <p>Requires certain transit providers operating in greater Minnesota to provide fixed route public transit on the day of a state general election.</p>
4	<p>Felony conviction; restoration of civil right to vote.</p> <p>Restores the civil right to vote to individuals who have been convicted of a felony once the individual has completed any incarceration imposed and executed for the offense. If no incarceration is imposed, the right to vote is restored upon sentencing. If the individual is later subject to incarceration for that offense, the individual loses the right to vote only during the period of incarceration.</p>

Section	Description – Article 4: Elections and Voting Rights
5	<p>Establishment.</p> <p>Requires the statewide voter registration system to be capable of providing necessary reports related to early voting.</p>
6	<p>Form.</p> <p>Requires updates to the voter registration application to reflect the change in the restoration of the civil right to vote provided by this bill.</p>
7	<p>Public information lists.</p> <p>Prohibits the publicly available information on voter registration to include the party choice of a voter who voted in a presidential nomination primary.</p>
8	<p>Presidential primary political party list.</p> <p>Requires the secretary of state to maintain a list of voters who voted in the presidential nomination primary for each major political party. The list is classified as private data, but the list of voters corresponding to each party must be provided to the chair of that party.</p>
9	<p>Automatic registration of driver’s license, instruction permit, and identification card applicants.</p> <p>Establishes a process that requires an eligible applicant for a new or renewed driver’s license, instruction permit, or identification card to be registered to vote, unless the applicant opts out of the registration.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Automatic registration. Requires eligible applicants to be registered to vote, unless the applicant declines to be registered.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Applications. Requires the commissioner of public safety to format driver’s license, instruction permit, and identification card applications to accommodate the new process required by this bill: the application must give the applicant an opportunity to “opt-out,” rather than “opt-in” to voter registration. The form is required to clearly state that it is a felony for a person who is not eligible to register to vote or cast a ballot.</p> <p>The commissioner is required to transmit relevant data to the secretary of state on a daily basis (under current law, data on applicants who opt-in to registration is only required to be transmitted at least weekly). The data transmittal would newly require data on an applicant’s citizenship status.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Registration. Establishes a process for review of applicant data by the secretary of state, to determine an applicant’s voter registration status.</p> <p>Paragraph (a) governs applications for individuals who are already registered to vote. For these applicants, the secretary of state must update the applicant’s</p>

Section	Description – Article 4: Elections and Voting Rights
	<p>registration status and transmit any registration changes to the appropriate county auditor for processing.</p> <p>Paragraph (b) governs applications for individuals who are not already registered. For these applicants, the secretary is required to use available data to determine whether the applicant is eligible to vote. If so, the applicant’s data must be transmitted to the appropriate county auditor for processing. If the applicant is less than 18 years old, the secretary can wait until the applicant has turned 18 to complete the eligibility determination.</p> <p>Paragraph (c) provides a data classification for applicants who the secretary determines are not eligible to vote. Data on these applicants is private.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Notice. Requires the county auditor to mail each newly registered voter the standard postcard registration notice provided to all other new registrants under current law.</p> <p>Subd. 5. Registering 20 days before election. Provides that an application dated during the 20 days prior to an election may be used to register the applicant, but the registration is not effective until the day after the election.</p> <p>Subd. 6. System certification. Requires the commissioner of public safety and secretary of state to certify that the technology systems used to transmit the necessary data have been tested and are able to perform their necessary functions before any applicant is registered to vote using the new process established in this bill.</p>
10	<p>Duties of secretary of state; information about voting rights.</p> <p>Requires the secretary of state to prepare a publication that describes the voting rights of individuals who have been charged with or convicted of a crime. The publication must be electronically available to the state court administrator and the commissioner of corrections for further distribution.</p>
11	<p>Election law applicability.</p> <p>Provides that the Minnesota Election Law (a term defined in law to mean Chapters 201-211C of Minnesota Statutes) applies to early voting.</p>
12	<p>Early voting.</p> <p>Establishes a definition of the term “early voting.”</p>
13	<p>Violation.</p> <p>Adds references to early voting in an existing section of statute specifying criminal penalties for certain prohibited activities related to voting.</p>

Section	Description – Article 4: Elections and Voting Rights
14	<p>Permanent absentee voter status.</p> <p>Modifies the existing process that allows a voter to request than an absentee ballot application be sent automatically prior to each election. Instead of the application, this section would allow a voter to request that the absentee ballot itself be sent automatically prior to each election, without the need for an additional application. A request form must be created for this purpose.</p>
15	<p>Voters with a disability.</p> <p>Establishes procedures for the transmission, marking, and return of an absentee ballot when the ballot is transmitted to a voter electronically due to a voter’s disability.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Transmitting ballot and certificate of voter eligibility. Authorizes a voter with a temporary or permanent disability to request an absentee ballot and related materials be transmitted electronically. The materials must be provided consistent with the accessibility standards adopted by the state’s chief information officer.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Marking ballots. Authorizes a voter to mark an electronically-submitted absentee ballot using accessible software or devices.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Returning voted ballots. Requires a voter receiving an absentee ballot electronically to return the voted ballots and certificate of eligibility in a sealed envelope.</p>
16	<p>Generally.</p> <p>Adds a cross-reference to the new early voting provisions established by the bill to an existing requirement in law related to a municipal clerk’s access to the statewide voter registration system. A municipal clerk would only be permitted to administer early voting if the clerk has the technical capacity to access the statewide voter registration system and has undergone training approved by the secretary of state.</p>
17	<p>Printing and delivery of forms.</p> <p>Eliminates existing language setting a timeline for the delivery of absentee ballot applications prior to an election to those voters who request automatic delivery. These changes conform to the changes made earlier in this bill providing for the automatic delivery of an absentee ballot, rather than an application, prior to each election.</p>
18	<p>Delivery of ballots.</p> <p>Establishes timelines for the delivery of absentee ballots to voters who request automatic delivery. The ballots must be mailed at least 45 days prior to a federal, state, county, city, or school board election. For town elections held in March, ballots must be mailed at least 30 days prior to the election.</p>

Section	Description – Article 4: Elections and Voting Rights
19	<p>Location; timing.</p> <p>Authorizes designated in-person absentee voting locations to be opened for fewer than the 46 days prior to an election, if notice is provided on the jurisdiction’s website and to the secretary of state. A voter must still be able to submit an absentee ballot at the office of the county auditor during the full 46-day absentee voting period.</p>
20	<p>County auditor’s and municipal clerk’s offices to remain open.</p> <p>Modifies the time that the county auditor’s office and the municipal clerk’s office must be open to accept absentee ballots. Current law requires these offices to be open until 5:00 p.m. on the day immediately preceding an election; the bill would modify the standard to require the offices be open from 8:00 a.m. to noon on the day immediately preceding an election in which early voting will be used (the existing 5:00 p.m. standard would continue to apply to other types of elections).</p>
21	<p>Establishment; applicable laws.</p> <p>Adds a reference to administration of early voting in the section of law related to establishment of ballot boards.</p>
22	<p>Duties of ballot board; absentee ballots.</p> <p>Provides a conforming reference in the law governing absentee ballot board procedures to reflect the permanent absentee ballot authorization established by this bill.</p>
23	<p>Duties of ballot board; early voting.</p> <p>Establishes duties of a ballot board related to early voting. In addition to procedures established later in the bill, the ballot board must make a record of voters who cast ballots early and count the ballots using procedures that apply to the ballot board in existing law, and as provided in this bill.</p>
24	<p>Record of voting.</p> <p>Provides that a voter who casts an early voting ballot may not be permitted to cast another ballot at the election.</p> <p>This section also provides a conforming reference to the time after which a voter whose absentee ballot has been accepted is no longer permitted to cast a ballot at the election.</p>
25	<p>Opening of envelopes.</p> <p>Requires the return of absentee ballot materials to a voter if more than one “voted” ballot is included in a ballot envelope. This change relates to the presidential nomination primary, in which absentee voters will be provided a separate ballot for each party participating in the primary, but are only permitted to vote one of the ballots.</p>

Section	Description – Article 4: Elections and Voting Rights
26	<p>Storage and counting of absentee and early voting ballots.</p> <p>Adds references to early voting in the existing law related to the storage and counting of ballots by a ballot board.</p>
27	<p>Early voting.</p> <p>Permits any eligible voter to vote in person prior to election day using the procedures established in this bill. Early voting must be available at federal, state, and county elections. Cities are permitted to authorize early voting for city elections following procedures established in the bill.</p>
28	<p>Time period for early voting.</p> <p>Requires early voting to be available for every primary, general, or special election subject to early voting beginning 30 days prior to election day, through 5:00 p.m. on the third day prior to the election. Voters in line at 5:00 p.m. on the third day prior to the election must be permitted to vote.</p>
29	<p>Hours for early voting.</p> <p>Requires early voting to be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, but from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on at least one of those weekdays, and from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the two Saturdays prior to the election.</p>
30	<p>Locations for early voting.</p> <p>Requires early voting to be available in polling places designated in the county auditor’s office, and at the municipal clerk’s office, if the clerk has been delegated the responsibility to administer absentee voting, and at other county or city-owned buildings designated by the county auditor or municipal clerk.</p> <p>The polling place for early voting must include equipment accessible for voters’ disabilities.</p>
31	<p>Notice to voters.</p> <p>Requires the county auditor or municipal clerk to prepare a notice of the days, times, and locations for early voting. The notice must be posted at least 14 days prior to the start of early voting on the websites of the county and any municipality where an early voting location is designated. Procedures for publication of the notice in an official newspaper are provided if the jurisdiction does not have a website.</p>
32	<p>Procedures for early voting.</p> <p>Establishes procedures for casting a ballot using early voting, including a requirement that the voter sign the certification required of all voters voting on election day, and that a voter be permitted to register on-site if necessary. Ballots cast using early voting must be processed and counted by a ballot board.</p>

Section	Description – Article 4: Elections and Voting Rights
33	Election supplies; duties of county auditors and clerks. Requires city clerks designated to administer early voting to be provided the appropriate election materials at least one day prior to the beginning of the early voting period. These materials are prepared by the county auditor.
34	Electronic voting systems. Expands the types of electronic voting systems that may be certified for use in Minnesota to include systems that produced a marked paper ballot using a touch screen or other electronic device.
35	Authorization (mail balloting). Authorizes the option of mail balloting for all towns, and all cities with fewer than 400 registered voters, regardless of their geographic location in the state. Under current law, these towns and cities are only eligible if they are located outside of a metropolitan-area county.
36	Procedure (absentee voters with a disability). Authorizes voters with a temporary or permanent disability voting in a mail balloting precinct to request that ballots and related materials be transmitted electronically consistent with the authorization established for absentee ballots earlier in this bill.
37	Transit services. Provides a cross-reference to new requirements related to free transit service on the day of a state general election, established elsewhere in this bill.
38	Polling place roster; voter signature certificate; voter receipt. Requires updates to the certification signed by voters in a polling place attesting to their eligibility to vote, to reflect the change in the restoration of the civil right to vote provided by this bill.
39	Physical assistance in marking ballots. Eliminates the existing three-person cap on the number of voters a person may provide assistance to in a polling place.
40	Information requirements. Requires the precinct summary statement prepared following each election to indicate the number of voted ballots that indicate only a voter’s choices. This section corresponds to other sections that allow the use of alternate voting system technologies in a polling place.

Section	Description – Article 4: Elections and Voting Rights
41	<p>Special election when legislature will be in session.</p> <p>Allows an additional two weeks between the time the governor issues a writ of special election and the time a special election must be held to fill a vacancy legislative seat, when the election must be held in time for the person to be seated during a legislative session. Under current law, the special election must be conducted no more than 35 days after the governor’s writ. As provided in this section, the special election must be conducted no more than 49 days after the governor’s writ.</p> <p>A corresponding change to the period during which this requirement applies is also included in this section.</p>
42	<p>Date of special election; certain times prohibited.</p> <p>Prohibits a special election, including a special primary or special general election, from being held during the four days before and after a state holiday.</p>
43	<p>Notice of special election.</p> <p>Extends the required notices of a special election to fill a vacant legislative seat by an additional week. Under current law, notice of a special primary must be posted at least seven days before the primary, and notice of a special election must be posted at least 14 days before the election. Those notices are extended to 14 days and 21 days, respectively.</p>
44	<p>Time of filing.</p> <p>Requires affidavits of candidacy and nominating petitions for a special election held to fill a vacant legislative office to be filed one week earlier. Under current law, filings are required at least 14 days before the special primary. Under this bill, filings are required 21 days before the primary.</p>
45	<p>Local reimbursement for special elections.</p> <p>Establishes a process for reimbursement of local governments for the cost of conducting a special election to fill a vacant state or federal office. Expenses that are eligible for reimbursement, and the process and deadlines for requesting reimbursement, are provided.</p>
46	<p>Applicability.</p> <p>Provides that the new chapter of statute enacted by this bill applies to all elections conducted using ranked-choice voting, as authorized by law. All other provisions of law related to the conduct and administration of elections also apply to ranked-choice voting elections, to the extent they are consistent with the provisions established in the bill.</p>
47	<p>Definitions.</p> <p>Provides definitions for a number of terms used related to ranked-choice voting.</p>

Section	Description – Article 4: Elections and Voting Rights
48	<p data-bbox="355 275 1110 302">Authorization to adopt ranked-choice voting; implementation.</p> <p data-bbox="355 317 1406 380">Authorizes cities, counties, towns, and school districts to adopt the use of ranked-choice voting for local offices.</p> <p data-bbox="355 422 1406 590">Procedures for adopting this method of voting and certain other general standards for implementation are provided. Voter approval would be required in the case of a charter city or county, otherwise adoption is permitted by ordinance or resolution of the governing body. A decision about the use of ranked-choice voting must be made at least 30 days prior to the first day for filing of affidavits of candidacy for the election.</p>
49	<p data-bbox="355 646 444 674">Ballots.</p> <p data-bbox="355 688 1406 856">Provides standards for ballot formatting, including a requirement that a ranked-choice voting ballot permit a voter to rank at least three candidates for each office and provide for write-in candidates, that instructions be provided on the ballot, and that offices to be elected using ranked-choice voting be clearly separated on the ballot from offices to be elected using the traditional voting method.</p> <p data-bbox="355 898 1325 961">The chief election official is required to determine the ballot format after a voting mechanism has been selected.</p>
50	<p data-bbox="355 1018 841 1045">Ranked-choice voting tabulation center.</p> <p data-bbox="453 1060 1406 1165">Subd. 1. Tabulation of votes; generally. Requires one physical location be designated as the ranked-choice voting tabulation center. The location must be accessible to the public for the purposes of observing the vote tabulation.</p> <p data-bbox="453 1197 1406 1333">Subd. 2. Precinct tabulation. On election night, within each precinct, the election judges must record and publicly declare the number of first choice votes cast for each candidate in the precinct. All electronic voting data and ballots must then be securely transferred to the tabulation center.</p> <p data-bbox="453 1365 1406 1501">Subd. 3. Notice of recess in count. At the ranked-choice voting tabulation center, a recess in counting is permitted for meals or other necessary purposes. Notice of a recess must be posted; the content and locations for posting the notice are provided in the bill.</p> <p data-bbox="453 1543 1349 1606">Subd. 4. Recording write-in votes. Establishes standards for processing and counting write-in votes.</p> <p data-bbox="453 1648 1406 1782">Subd. 5. Ranked-choice vote tabulation. Requires tabulation of votes cast, at a time set by the chief elections official, on a continual basis until preliminary results are determined for all races (subject to the provisions allowing for a recess).</p>

Section	Description – Article 4: Elections and Voting Rights
51	<p>Tabulation of votes.</p> <p>Establishes mathematical and procedural standards for tabulating ranked-choice votes and determining the result, including establishment of a threshold vote total required for a candidate to be elected, procedures for transferring a candidate’s surplus votes to other continuing candidates based on ranking, elimination of candidates with insufficient votes to continue, and procedures when a voter skips a ranking on the ballot.</p>
52	<p>Reporting results.</p> <p>Establishes standards for the vote total summary statements required to be produced within each precinct and by the ranked-choice voting tabulation center, and the election abstract. The summary statements must be certified as true and accurate and signed by the individuals making the certification.</p>
53	<p>Recounts.</p> <p>Establishes standards for a recount of a ranked-choice voting election. A candidate defeated in the final round of tabulation may request a recount under the standards and procedures provided in current law and rule. Any candidate, regardless of the time of their elimination, may request a recount at the candidate’s own expense, also subject to administrative rules governing recounts.</p>
54	<p>Rules.</p> <p>Authorizes the secretary of state to adopt rules to implement the ranked-choice voting requirements and procedures established by this bill.</p>
55	<p>Notice of filing dates.</p> <p>Requires a notice of filings posted by the municipal clerk for local elections to indicate the method of voting to be used at the election.</p>
56	<p>Municipalities.</p> <p>Authorizes municipalities to adopt the use of an electronic voting system that includes features for vote tabulation that have not been certified by the secretary of state, so long as those features have been certified by an independent testing authority accredited by the federal Election Assistance Commission and those features meet the municipality’s needs for an election. Notice to the secretary of state is required.</p>
57	<p>Availability of alternate ballot formats.</p> <p>Requires polling places to provide voters the option of voting a regularly-printed optical scan ballot, even if the precinct has elected to use an alternate ballot format and tabulator technology that is newly authorized by this bill.</p>

Section	Description – Article 4: Elections and Voting Rights
58	<p>Electronic voting systems.</p> <p>Expands the types of electronic voting systems that may be certified for use in Minnesota to include systems that produced a marked paper ballot using a touch screen or other electronic device. This section corresponds to other sections elsewhere in the bill.</p>
59	<p>Electronic voting systems; purchasing.</p> <p>Establishes minimum standards and functionality for all electronic voting systems purchased in the state, including a requirement that the system be capable of handling a ranked-choice voting election.</p>
60	<p>Program.</p> <p>Establishes a timeline for completion and delivery of the computer program used to conduct an election.</p>
61	<p>Testing of voting systems.</p> <p>Requires testing of the voting system to be used at an election within 37 days before election day. Current law requires the testing to occur within 14 days before election day.</p> <p>This section also requires voting systems to be tested for accuracy in tabulating votes at a ranked-choice voting election, when the system will be used for that purpose.</p>
62	<p>Ballots in precincts with multiple styles of voting system.</p> <p>Establishes standards for the conduct of a recount in precincts where multiple styles of voting system are used. These standards are designed to protect the privacy of a voter's ballot.</p>
63	<p>Selection for review; notice.</p> <p>Establishes standards for setting the date, time, and place for a required postelection review in certain precincts where ranked-choice voting is used. This information must be determined at least 30 days prior to the election.</p>
64	<p>Scope and content of review.</p> <p>Establishes substantive standards for the conduct of a postelection review in a precinct where ranked-choice voting was used.</p>
65	<p>Election security and administration grants.</p> <p>Establishes a grant program for distribution of \$1 million in grants to political subdivisions for purposes of election security and administration. Specific authorized uses of the grant, an application process, and legislative reporting are required.</p>

Section	Description – Article 4: Elections and Voting Rights
66	<p>Presidential nomination primary established.</p> <p>Provides that a major political party is only eligible to participate in the presidential nomination primary if the party selects delegates to attend a national convention.</p>
67	<p>Conducting presidential nomination primary.</p> <p>Classifies data on a voter’s political party choice at a presidential nomination primary as private data. Under current law, this data is public.</p>
68	<p>Example ballots.</p> <p>Provides a technical correction to the law governing ballots created for illustration purposes prior to a presidential nomination primary. These are “example” ballots, rather than “sample” ballots.</p>
69	<p>Reimbursable local expenses.</p> <p>Authorizes the secretary of state to approve other local expenses for reimbursement following a presidential nomination primary.</p>
70	<p>Agreement among the states to elect the president by national popular vote.</p> <p>Adopts an interstate compact related to election of the president: if a sufficient number of other states also ratify, this compact would require Minnesota (and other participating states) to obligate their electoral college votes to the winner of the national popular vote for president, rather than allocating those votes based on the vote totals from the state.</p>
71	<p>Notice of restoration of right to vote.</p> <p>Requires the chief executive officer of each state and local correctional facility to designate one official within the facility to provide a notice of restoration of rights and a voter registration application to individuals whose rights are restored following a release from incarceration.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Correctional facilities; designation of official. Requires designation of the official, and that the official maintain a sufficient supply of voter registration applications and informational materials.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Notice requirement. Establishes standards for when a notice of restored voting rights must be provided.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Form of notice. Sets the full text of the notice that must be provided when an individual is restored to voting rights following release from incarceration.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Failure to provide notice. Provides that the failure of a corrections official to provide the notice required by this section does not prevent the restoration of voting rights.</p>

Section	Description – Article 4: Elections and Voting Rights
72	<p>Transit service on election day.</p> <p>Requires the Metropolitan Council to provide regular route transit service free of charge on the day of a state general election.</p>
73	<p>Restoration.</p> <p>Eliminates a reference to the right to vote in an existing section of law governing the restoration of civil rights, including the right to vote and hold office, following discharge after conviction of a crime. Restoration of the right to vote would be governed by the new law established earlier in this bill.</p>
74	<p>Repealer; early voting.</p> <p>Repeals the existing law that authorizes local jurisdictions to offer a version of early voting (in-person absentee voting using a ballot box) during the seven days prior to the election.</p>
75	<p>Effective date; early voting.</p> <p>Provides an effective date for the bill, conditional on certification by the secretary of state that the statewide voter registration system has been tested and can properly track early voting information, and certification of precinct voting equipment capable of tabulating at least 30 ballot styles for use in the state.</p> <p>A jurisdiction may implement the requirements of the bill prior to the effective date if the secretary of state has made the required certifications at least 90 days prior to the election at which early voting will be used.</p>

Article 5: Campaign Finance

This article contains changes to state and local campaign finance laws.

Section	Description – Article 5: Campaign Finance
1	<p>Approved expenditure.</p> <p>Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “approved expenditure,” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.</p>
2	<p>Ballot question.</p> <p>Adds references to reflect the addition of certain ballot questions in Hennepin County to the jurisdiction of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.</p>

Section	Description – Article 5: Campaign Finance
3	<p>Campaign expenditure.</p> <p>Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “campaign expenditure” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.</p>
4	<p>Local candidate.</p> <p>Adds a definition of “local candidate” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.</p>
5	<p>Contribution.</p> <p>Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “contribution” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.</p>
6	<p>Expressly advocating.</p> <p>Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “expressly advocating” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.</p> <p>This section also expands the definition to include communication that “when taken as a whole and with limited reference to external events, such as the proximity to the election, is susceptible of no reasonable interpretation other than as an appeal advocating the election or defeat of one or more clearly identified candidates.”</p>
7	<p>General treasury money.</p> <p>Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “general treasury money” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.</p>
8	<p>Independent expenditure.</p> <p>Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “independent expenditure” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.</p>
9	<p>Loan.</p> <p>Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “loan” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.</p>

Section	Description – Article 5: Campaign Finance
10	<p>Noncampaign disbursement.</p> <p>Authorizes a campaign to make an expenditure for specified security-related expenses for a candidate and any immediate family members of the candidate who live in the same household and report it as a “noncampaign disbursement.”</p>
11	<p>Political committee.</p> <p>Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “political committee” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.</p>
12	<p>Political fund.</p> <p>Adds references to local candidates to the definition of “political fund” to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.</p>
13	<p>When required for contributions and approved expenditures.</p> <p>Adds references to local candidates into the law governing political fund organizational requirements, to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.</p>
14	<p>Commingling prohibited.</p> <p>Adds references to local candidates into the law governing political fund organizational requirements, to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.</p>
15	<p>Permitted disbursements.</p> <p>Authorizes an independent expenditure political committee or fund, and ballot questions committees or funds, to make disbursements for electioneering communications. “Electioneering communications” are regulated by a new section of law established later in the bill.</p>
16	<p>Penalty.</p> <p>Adds references to local candidates into the law that provides penalties for independent expenditure political committees and funds in the event they violate the law, to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.</p>
17	<p>Accounts; penalty.</p> <p>Adds references to local candidates into the law governing the accounts that must be kept by political committees, political funds, principal campaign committees, and party</p>

Section Description – Article 5: Campaign Finance

units, to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.

18 Independent expenditures.

Adds references to local candidates into the law governing disclosure of independent expenditures, to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.

19 Local election reports.

Establishes a reporting schedule for campaign expenditures related to local candidates and local ballot questions (“local” is defined earlier in the bill to include only certain entities in Hennepin County).

20 Contents of report.

Adds references to local candidates into the law governing the content of required campaign finance reports, to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.

This section also adds reporting requirements related to electioneering communications, which are more fully governed by a new section established later in the bill.

21 Statement of independence.

Adds references to local candidates into the law governing the certification that an independent expenditure was made independently, to reflect the expansion of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board’s jurisdiction to include certain offices within Hennepin County.

22 Electioneering communications.

Establishes a new disclosure category for “electioneering communication.” An extensive definition is provided in the bill. In general, an “electioneering communication” is a communication that clearly identifies a candidate, is made within 30 days of a primary or 60 days of a general election, is targeted to the relevant electorate, and is not made with the consent or cooperation of a candidate or a candidate’s committee. (Subd. 1, para. (a))

A number of exceptions to this definition are provided. (Subd. 1, para. (b))

Electioneering communications made by a political committee, party unit, or principal campaign committee must be disclosed. Any other association may register a political fund and disclose its electioneering communications on the fund’s reports. An association that does not disclose under either of the methods above must disclose its electioneering communications on a schedule provided in the bill. (Subds. 3 and 4)

Section	Description – Article 5: Campaign Finance
	<p>A person who makes a disbursement of more than \$1,500 in a calendar year for producing or distributing electioneering communications must file a disclosure statement with the board containing the specified information. (Subd. 5)</p>
	<p>An electioneering communication must include a statement of attribution. The statement to be included depends on the type of communication and method of distribution. (Subd. 7)</p>
	<p>Late filing fees and other penalties for noncompliance are provided in the bill. (Subd. 8)</p>
23	<p>Voluntary inactive status; political funds. Adds conforming references to electioneering communications, in the section of statute related to political funds on inactive status.</p>
24	<p>Independent expenditures and electioneering communications. Prohibits a principal campaign committee from making disbursements for electioneering communications.</p>
25	<p>Contributions or use of general treasury money. Modifies standards related to the reporting of independent expenditures when an association uses its general treasury money to make the expenditure, and membership dues or fees, or individual contributions, are included in the association’s general treasury.</p>
26	<p>Campaign financing; disclosure of economic interests. Amends existing statutes specific to Hennepin County which currently regulate campaign finance reporting by local candidates and entities within the county. The changes conform to the changes made earlier in this bill, and clarify which types of candidates are subject to oversight by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, and which types of candidates must continue to file campaign reports and economic interest statements with a local filing officer.</p>
27	<p>Repealer. Repeals a series of statutes specific to campaign oversight and reporting for local candidates within Hennepin County. The reporting obligations repealed in these sections are instead replaced by the system of reporting established in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 10A and subject to oversight by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.</p>

Article 6: Redistricting

This article contains policy changes related to the process of redistricting, including the creation of a new Redistricting Advisory Commission.

Section	Description – Article 6: Redistricting
1	<p>Redistricting commission. Establishes a Redistricting Advisory Commission, consisting of 12 members of the public and five retired judges.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Commission membership; duties. Establishes a Redistricting Advisory Commission in each year ending in one, for the purpose of recommending legislative and congressional districts in the state. The commission consists of 12 members of the public and five retired state judges who have not served in a party-designated or party-endorsed position.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Public members; appointment. Establishes a procedure for appointing public members of the commission, and establishes qualifications for the role.</p> <p>A person who is not eligible to vote, and certain types of people with close personal or professional connections to politics or high-ranking public officials are not eligible for appointment to the commission.</p> <p>Appointment to the commission requires a special application process outlined for this purpose in the bill. The secretary of state is the official primarily responsible for administering the appointment process, but the four legislative leaders have a role in narrowing the list of applicant finalists. Appointees are ultimately selected by lot; four will be affiliated with the majority political party caucus in the house of representatives; four will be affiliated with the minority political party caucus in the house; and four will be affiliated with neither of those parties. Additional details are provided in the bill.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Retired judges; appointment. Establishes a procedure for appointing five retired judges to the commission. One retired judge each is appointed by the four legislative caucus leaders. If an appointing authority fails to make an appointment, the chief justice of the supreme court must appoint a person to fill that position. A fifth judge must be chosen by the four legislatively-appointed members. Additional details are provided in the bill.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Code of conduct. Establishes a code of conduct for commission members. Retired judges are subject to the Code of Judicial Conduct. Public members “exercise the function of a public officer.”</p> <p>Subd. 5. Removal; filling vacancies. A member of the advisory commission may only be removed for reasons that would justify a recall of a state elected official (serious malfeasance or nonfeasance in the performance of duties, or conviction</p>

Section **Description – Article 6: Redistricting**

for a serious crime). A vote of two-thirds of the commission is required to remove a member.

A member who violates the prohibition on communications contained later in this bill must be removed from the commission.

Vacancies must be filled by the original appointing authority within 30 days after the vacancy occurs.

Subd. 6. Open records. Provides for access to commission records under the Government Data Practices Act, but restricts access to a plan until it has been submitted to the commission for consideration.

Subd. 7. Open meetings. Subjects the commission to the state open meetings law.

Subd. 8. Open communications. Restricts certain types of communications related to the work of the commission. These restrictions impact both the staff and members of the commission.

Subd. 9. Lobbyist registration. Provides that the commission's work qualifies as "administrative action" for purposes of Minnesota's lobbyist registration law. This designation means that individuals appearing before the commission must register as a lobbyist with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board if they meet certain income or expenditure thresholds related to their work.

Subd. 10. Compensation and expenses. The commission may approve a \$55 per day per diem rate, plus expense reimbursements, for members on the same terms as other similar state boards and commissions.

Subd. 11. Plans submitted to commission. Requires the commission to adopt a schedule for interested persons to submit proposed redistricting plans and to respond to plans proposed by others. The commission must also adopt standards governing the format of plans. The schedule and standards are not subject to the administrative rulemaking requirements of state law.

Subd. 12. Public hearings. Requires the commission to conduct at least one public hearing in each congressional district before adopting its first plan. The commission must ask for input on identifying communities of interest for consideration. A preliminary draft of a plan, including required statistical reports, must be posted online at least one week before a hearing and allow at least 30 days for public comment.

Subd. 13. Deadlines. Establishes detailed deadlines and requirements for the commission to complete its work. Recommended plans must be submitted to the legislature by April 30 of each year ending in one. A series of additional steps

Section **Description – Article 6: Redistricting**

are required if the legislature fails to approve an initial plan recommended by the commission.

Subd. 14. Data used. Requires the commission to use census data to draw districts, but the population data for individuals who are incarcerated must reflect their last known residential address before incarceration.

Subd. 15. Expiration. Provides that the commission expires upon enactment of plans—by law, or by court order—and resolution of any legal challenges to those plans. A court may order the creation of a new commission if subsequent legal challenges arise.

2 **Districting principles.**

Establishes statutory principles for use by the Redistricting Advisory Commission and others in proposing new boundaries for legislative and congressional districts. In general, the principles are listed in priority order for implementation.

Subd. 1. Application. Provides that the principles apply to both legislative and congressional districts.

Subd. 2. Prohibited information. Prohibits plans from being drawn to purposely favor or disfavor a political party or candidate. This section also prohibits certain types of data (registered voters, political affiliation, voting history, and demographics) from being used by the commission in its “initial phase” but allows for that data to be used to test a plan’s compliance with the principles required by this section and in the plan’s mandated reports.

Subd. 3. Priority of principles. Specifies that restricting principles established in this section apply to members of the redistricting commission and must be given priority based on the order that they are listed.

Subd. 4. Population equality. Establishes equal population standards for districts.

Subd. 5. Contiguity. Provides standards to ensure all the territory in a district is contiguous (the boundaries establish a single, whole shape for each district that can be traveled easily).

Subd. 6. Minority representation. Provides standards for how a redistricting plan may impact minority communities.

Subd. 7. Communities of interest. Provides standards related to the preservation of identifiable communities of interest, when possible. Examples of common similarities that might establish a community of interest are provided.

Subd. 8. Political subdivisions. Provides standards related to the division of political subdivisions in creating districts.

Section **Description – Article 6: Redistricting**

Subd. 9. Incumbents. Prohibits the consideration of incumbent residences in developing or approving a plan.

Subd. 10. Compactness. Requires statistical measures of compactness to be used to test whether the districts in a plan are compact.

Subd. 11. Partisan symmetry and bias. Prohibits a district from being drawn in a manner that unduly favors or disfavors a political party. Standards and methods for assessing a plan are required.

Subd. 12. Numbering. Establishes a scheme for identifying each district's district number.

3 **Legislative Coordinating Commission; redistricting.**

Establishes duties for the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) in the redistricting process.

Subd. 1. Administrative support. Requires the LCC to provide administrative support to the Redistricting Advisory Commission.

Subd. 2. Database. Requires the datasets used in redistricting to correspond to those used by the LCC, including population counts provided by the United States Census Bureau.

Subd. 3. Publication; consideration of plans. Requires certain technical information to be submitted to the GIS office of the LCC before a redistricting plan can be considered for adoption by the house of representatives or the senate.

Subd. 4. Reports. Provides the detailed data that must be provided in a number of summary reports that are prepared in conjunction with maps showing district boundaries. These reports generally summarize data that may be used to determine whether a redistricting plan complies with the principles required to be used in creating a plan. The specific principles required are established earlier in this bill.

4 **Redistricting of local election districts.**

Establishes requirements related to redistricting of certain local election districts.

Subd. 1. Redistricting plan standards; Redistricting Commission. Requires districts in counties with a population over 100,000, and wards in cities with a population over 75,000 to comply with the principles established earlier in this bill.

Section	Description – Article 6: Redistricting
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Subd. 2. Population variance. Provides a “minimum population variance” of 1.5 percent of the mean population for local districts and wards subject to this section.

Subd. 3. Procedure. Requires local redistricting plans subject to this section to be prepared and adopted by a charter commission, or by a specially-appointed redistricting commission if a charter commission does not exist.

Article 7: Appropriations (Veterans and Military Affairs)

This article contains appropriations to the Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Section	Description – Article 7: Appropriations (Veterans and Military Affairs)
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1 **Appropriations.**

Provides general guidance on the appropriations in sections 2 and 3.

2 **Military affairs.**

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Appropriates \$24,197,000 each year to the Department of Military Affairs.

Subd. 2. Maintenance of training facilities. Appropriates \$9,701,000 each year to maintain training facilities.

Subd. 3. General support. Appropriates \$3,382,000 each year for general support including \$58,000 each year for reintegration activities.

Subd. 4. Enlistment incentives. Appropriates \$11,114,000 each year for enlistment incentives.

3 **Veterans affairs.**

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Appropriates \$76,521,000 in the first year and \$76,494,000 in the second year to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Subd. 2. Veterans programs and services. Appropriates \$18,380,000 the first year and \$18,353,000 the second year for the following veterans programs and services:

- Counseling and Case Management Outreach Referral and Education (CORE)—\$750,000 each year;
- veterans service organizations—\$353,000 each year;

Section	Description – Article 7: Appropriations (Veterans and Military Affairs)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)—\$750,000 each year;▪ state’s veterans cemeteries—\$1,647,000 the first year and \$1,672,000 the second year;▪ honor guards—\$200,000 each year;▪ MN GI Bill—\$200,000 each year;▪ Gold Star Program—\$100,000 each year;▪ County Veterans Service Offices—\$1,100,000 each year;▪ Armed Forces Service Center—\$100,000 the first year [H.F. 143];▪ veterans justice grant—\$200,000 each year [H.F. 430]; and▪ Medal of Honor Memorial—\$150,000 in the first year [H.F. 1773]. <p>Subd. 3. Veterans health care. Appropriates \$58,141,000 each year to veterans health care.</p>
4	<p>Memorial commemorating recipients of the medal of honor. Modifies the 2016 session law that called for the construction of a Minnesota Medal of Honor Memorial by removing the restriction on the use of funds in the Medal of Honor Memorial account. This is tied to the appropriation in section 3, subdivision 3, paragraph (k). [H.F. 1773]</p>
5	<p>Cancellation. Cancels all unspent funds to the veterans Journey Home fund to the general fund.</p>

Article 8: Policy (Military and Veterans Affairs)

This article contains changes to statutes that relate to military and veterans affairs.

Section	Description – Article 8: Policy (Military and Veterans Affairs)
1	<p>Publicity representatives. Authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to use funds to pay a publicity representative. [H.F. 1958]</p>
2	<p>General duties. Clarifies that the commissioner of veterans affairs has the authority to exercise the powers necessary to implement chapters 196 (Department of Veterans Affairs), 197 (service member benefits), and 198 (veterans homes). [H.F. 1959]</p>

Section Description – Article 8: Policy (Military and Veterans Affairs)

3 Records; data privacy.

This section (and section 5) authorizes a county veterans service officer and county assessor to exchange information regarding the eligibility of a veteran currently receiving a property tax benefit under the disabled veterans homestead exclusion. In 2017, the legislature eliminated the annual application requirement for the exclusion, and instead required the county veterans service officer to certify the disability status of current beneficiaries each year to the county assessor, to make the eligibility determination. However, without explicit authorization to allow the sharing of private data, the 2017 provision can only be administered if a veteran consents to the release of their private data. This section and section 5 would allow the information exchange required to administer the new provision without obtaining a release from the beneficiary of the exclusion.

This section allows the county veterans service officer to disclose private data to the county assessor, to determine eligibility for the disabled veterans homestead exclusion.

[H.F. 203]

4 Definitions.

Revises the definition of “veteran” for purposes of Minnesota GI Bill benefits eligibility. The bill brings the definition of veteran in section 197.791 in line with the general statutory definition of veteran in section 197.447. The changes are technical and do not expand or restrict the category of current and former service members who are eligible for MN GI Bill benefits. (The stricken language became unnecessary when the state, in 2009, expanded eligibility to the MN GI Bill beyond just post-9/11 veterans.) **[H.F. 889]**

5 Disclosure.

Allows the county assessor to disclose private data to the county veterans service officer, to determine eligibility for the disabled veterans homestead exclusion. **[H.F. 203]**

6 Military veteran offenders restorative justice sentence.

Subd. 1. Offenses as a result of military service; presentence supervision procedures. (a) Requires sentencing courts to determine if a defendant is a current or past service member and suffering from trauma or mental health issues if the defendant: (1) is charged with a severity level 7 or lower offense; and (2) claims the offense was committed due to a service connected sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, PTSD, substance abuse, or mental health condition.

(b) Requires defendants who request a restorative justice sentence to provide clear and convincing evidence of their service-connected trauma to the court and prosecutor.

Section **Description – Article 8: Policy (Military and Veterans Affairs)**

(c) Requires a court to place an offender who meets the criteria established in paragraph (a) and who pleads guilty to the offense on probation while staying adjudication of the case.

(d) Permits the court to proceed with adjudication if the veteran violates the terms of the veteran’s probation.

(e) Encourages the court to require the veteran to attend a treatment program.

(f) Grants the veteran sentence credits for time spent in residential treatment.

(g) Provides guidance to the court in selecting a treatment program for the veteran.

(h) Directs the court and treatment program to collaborate with veteran service officers and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

(i) Provides guidance on how veterans sentenced under this section should be treated in Veterans Court.

Subd. 2. Restorative justice for military veterans; dismissal of charges.

Establishes guidelines for discharging a veteran sentenced under subdivision 1 and restoring the veteran to the “community of law abiding citizens.” The records of a case discharged under this subdivision are “not public” and may only be opened in a limited number of circumstances. Prohibits the dismissal of a case that requires predatory offender registration.

Subd. 3. Optional veterans treatment court program; procedures for eligible defendants. Authorizes veterans treatment court programs to supervise veterans placed on probation under this section. Defines “veterans treatment court program.”

Subd. 4. Creation of county and city diversion programs; authorization. Authorizes counties and cities to establish and operate veterans pretrial diversion programs for eligible veterans.

Effective date. August 1, 2019. [H.F. 998]



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