

Subject Early voting
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Overview

This bill establishes a system of early voting. Generally speaking, the changes would allow a voter to cast a ballot using a live ballot box during the 18 days prior to an election, at locations designated by the county auditor or municipal clerk.

These changes would be effective the latter of January 1, 2024, or after certification by the secretary of state that the statewide voter registration system has been tested and is capable of handling the expected volume of additional work.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Establishment. Requires the statewide voter registration system to be capable of providing necessary reports related to early voting.
2	Election law applicability. Provides that the Minnesota Election Law (a term defined in law to mean chapters 201-211C of Minnesota Statutes) applies to early voting.
3	Early voting. Establishes a definition of term “early voting” for purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 203B.
4	Violation. Adds references to early voting in an existing section of statute specifying criminal penalties for certain prohibited activities related to voting.
5	Generally. Adds cross-references to the new early voting provisions established by the bill to existing requirements in state law governing a city or town clerk’s administration of

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	absentee voting procedures. 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.
6	Location; timing for absentee voting. Authorizes the county auditor or municipal clerk to designate additional polling places for absentee voting, to be open for all or some of the 46 days before the election, and for hours that differ from the hours that are required of the offices of the county auditor and city or town clerk. This section also requires the county auditor to establish a polling place for at least one day on an Indian reservation located within the county, if requested by the Tribe.
7	Location; timing for early voting. Establishes an early voting period during the 18 days before a federal, state, or county election, and during the 18 days before certain municipal elections. During this time, a voter must be permitted to vote in the office of the county auditor and at any other polling place designated by the county auditor. Additional polling places may be designated and open for some or all of the 18 days, with hours that differ from the hours that are required of the offices of the county auditor and city or town clerk.
8	Town elections. Recodifies existing statute regarding the timing for voters to cast absentee ballots in person for a town election held in March.
9	Designation of locations. Requires the county auditor to make polling place designations for absentee and early voting at least 14 weeks before an election, with certain exceptions, and to provide notice of the designations to the secretary of state.
10	Notice to voters. Requires the county auditor to prepare a notice to voters of the days, times, and locations for both in-person absentee voting and early voting. Standards for posting and publication of the notice are provided.
11	Equipment. Provides minimum standards for the equipment that must be provided to each polling place.

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12	<p>County auditor’s and municipal clerk’s offices to remain open during certain hours preceding election.</p> <p>Establishes minimum daily hours of operation for the offices of the county auditor and municipal clerk, for elections conducted with early voting, and elections conducted without early voting.</p>
13	<p>Names of persons; early voting.</p> <p>Requires the secretary of state to maintain a list of voters who cast a ballot using the early voting procedures. The list must be made available to the public in the same manner as the public voter registration information list.</p>
14	<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>
15	<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. 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>
16	<p>Record of voting.</p> <p>Eliminates an existing standard regarding how a voter’s record is marked, if the voter submitted an absentee ballot that was received after the close of business on the seventh day prior to an election.</p>
17	<p>Opening of envelopes.</p> <p>Permits absentee ballots to be opened and counted beginning the day prior to the beginning of the early voting period, if early voting is provided. If early voting is not provided, absentee ballots may be opened and counted beginning the seventh day before the election consistent with current law.</p>
18	<p>Procedures for early voting.</p> <p>Establishes standards for the conduct of early voting, including the process for the voter to confirm their registration, sign a certification, and receive a ballot, and the process for ballots to be counted.</p>
19	<p>Election supplies; duties of county auditors and clerks.</p> <p>Provides a deadline for the county auditor to prepare and make election materials available to city clerks designated to administer early voting.</p>

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20	<p>“I Voted” stickers.</p> <p>Eliminates cross-references in the statute governing the distribution of “I Voted” stickers to a voter after the voter has successfully placed a ballot into a ballot box.</p>
21	<p>Testing of voting systems.</p> <p>Modifies the deadline for testing voting equipment, to reflect the use of this equipment in the early voting process.</p>
22	<p>Appropriation.</p> <p>Appropriates money to the secretary of state to implement this act.</p>
23	<p>Repealer.</p> <p>Repeals two subdivisions of law related to the designation of absentee voting locations, to conform to the changes and reorganizations contained earlier in the bill.</p>
24	<p>Certification; effective date.</p> <p>Requires the secretary of state to certify to the revisor of statutes that the statewide voter registration system has been tested and shown to properly allow for tracking of the information required to conduct early voting and can handle the expected volume of use. In general and with some exceptions, the early voting provisions of the bill are effective on the 85th day after that certification is made, or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.</p>



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