

**Subject** Local Government Policy Bill

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### Overview

This bill contains a number of policy provisions that impact local governments' authority and requirements.

This summary describes the provisions and indicates the bills and amendments from which the language is sourced.

## Article 1: Local Government Policy

Contains a number of policy provisions that impact local governments.

### Section Description – Article 1: Local Government Policy

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**1 Public data.**

Adds the members of the Metropolitan Council and certain Metropolitan Council employees to the definition of “public official” for the purposes of “personnel data” on government employees under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, which authorizes all data relating to a complaint or charge for those individuals to become public under certain circumstances. Also removes the current city population thresholds for certain kinds of city employees to be considered public officials.

Source: HF1596, 1<sup>st</sup> engrossment; HF1917, as amended by H1917A1

**2 Appraisal.**

Doubles the maximum reimbursement amounts allowed under current law for an appraisal of property conducted for a property owner whose property is to be acquired through eminent domain. The reimbursement amounts have not been updated since 2006.

Source: HF1532

**Section Description – Article 1: Local Government Policy**

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**3 Use requirements.**

Authorizes public water district, sewer district, and combination water and sewer districts to install water and sewer lines and ancillary infrastructure within public road right-of-way, similar to other utility entities.

Source: HF1665

**4 Discontinuance.**

Authorizes the posting of a public notice on a political subdivision's website when no qualified newspaper is available for publication of the notice after the discontinuance of a newspaper.

Source: HF2231

**5 Transition; audit.**

Increases the annual revenue threshold over which a town that has combined the offices of clerk and treasurer must have an annual financial audit.

Effective August 1, 2025, and applies to audits performed for 2026 and thereafter.

Source: Amendment coded H2083DE1

**6 Unclassified civil service.**

Deletes a specific number of deputy administrators from a St. Louis County civil service statute.

Source: HF1723, 1<sup>st</sup> engrossment

**7 Clerk, treasurer combined; audit standards.**

Increases the annual revenue threshold over which a standard plan statutory city that has combined the offices of clerk and treasurer must have an annual financial audit.

Effective August 1, 2025, and applies to audits performed for 2026 and thereafter.

Source: Amendment coded H2083DE1

**8 Membership.**

Provides statutory cities the option of establishing a public utilities commission with three, five, or seven members with staggered terms.

Source: HF1345; amendment coded H2098A2; and oral amendment in the Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee.

**Section Description – Article 1: Local Government Policy**

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- 9      **Change in membership; procedures.**  
Authorizes the number of statutory city public utility commission members to be increased or decreased by ordinance, but subject to a reverse referendum.  
  
Source: Amendment coded H2098A2
- 10     **Audit standards if combined.**  
Increases the annual revenue threshold over which a statutory city, plan A, that has combined the offices of clerk and treasurer must have an annual financial audit.  
  
Effective August 1, 2025, and applies to audits performed for 2026 and thereafter.  
  
Source: Amendment coded H2083DE1
- 11     **[471.9994] Landlord-tenant guide.**  
Requires cities and towns to provide landlords with a copy of the attorney general’s landlord-tenant guide upon issuance or renewal of a rental license, or registration or certificate of occupancy.  
  
Source: HF1471, 1<sup>st</sup> engrossment
- 12     **Conformity.**  
Requires towns and special districts to conform to financial reporting standards established by the state auditor to receive aid distributions.  
  
Effective August 1, 2025, and applies to aid distributions on or after that date.  
  
Source: Amendment coded H2083DE1
- 13     **Repealer.**  
Repeals a St. Louis County statute that provides that every lay member appointed to a board or commission by the St. Louis County Board is appointed to a term of three years. Also repeals four subdivisions of a St. Louis County statute which relate to an annual appropriation of county funds for county historical society work.  
  
Source: HF1723, 1<sup>st</sup> engrossment
- 14     **Effective date.**  
Provides that all sections in Article 1 are effective the day following final enactment, unless a different effective date is specified.

## **Article 2: Swift County: Organization of Joint Powers Hospital District**

Contains the language of HF1703, which amends provisions from a 1992 special law establishing a joint powers hospital district in Swift County.

### **Section Description – Article 2: Swift County: Organization of Joint Powers Hospital District**

#### **1-6 Amendments to Swift County Joint Hospital District.**

Reduces the number of board members of a hospital district in Swift County from nine to 12 voting members to six voting members. Also authorizes the hospital district to change the number of board members through adoption and amendment of bylaws.

Technical changes are made throughout to correct an erroneous reference to the provision governing the bylaws of the hospital district board.

Source: HF1703

#### **7 Effective date.**

Provides that Article 2 is effective the day after the governing bodies of Swift County and the city of Benson timely complete their compliance with Minnesota Statutes, section 645.021, subdivisions 2 and 3.

Source: HF1703



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