

Subject State Government Finance and Elections

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Overview

This is the omnibus state government finance and elections bill for the house of representatives. It would appropriate money to the legislature, constitutional officers, and certain state agencies for fiscal years 2026 and 2027. It would also make various statutory changes as summarized in articles 2, 3, and 5.

Article 1: State Government Appropriations

This article appropriates funding in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 to the legislature, constitutional officers, and specified state agencies and modifies certain existing appropriations.

Section	Description – Article 1: State Government Appropriations
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| 1 | Appropriations.
Explains the effect of, and format for, this appropriations article. |
| 2 | Legislature.
Appropriates funding to the house, senate, and Legislative Coordinating Commission and specifies funding amounts for certain joint offices. |
| 3 | Governor and lieutenant governor.
Appropriates funding for the Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. |
| 4 | State auditor.
Appropriates funding to the state auditor. |
| 5 | Attorney general.
Appropriates funding to the attorney general. |
| 6 | Secretary of state.
Appropriates funding to the secretary of state. |

Section	Description – Article 1: State Government Appropriations
7	State Board of Investment. Appropriates funding to the State Board of Investment.
8	Administrative Hearings. Appropriates funding to the Office of Administrative Hearings.
9	Information Technology Services. Appropriates funding to Minnesota IT Services (MNIT).
10	Administration. Appropriates funding to the Department of Administration, with amounts specified for certain purposes.
11	Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board. Appropriates funding to the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board.
12	Minnesota Management and Budget. Appropriates funding to the Department of Management and Budget, with amounts specified for certain purposes.
13	Revenue. Appropriates funding to the Department of Revenue.
14	Gambling Control Board. Appropriates funding to the Gambling Control Board.
15	Racing Commission. Appropriates funding to the Racing Commission.
16	State Lottery. Appropriates funding to the State Lottery.
17	Amateur Sports Commission. Appropriates funding to the Amateur Sports Commission.
18	Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage. Appropriates funding to the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage.
19	Council on Latino Affairs. Appropriates funding to the Council on Latino Affairs.

Section	Description – Article 1: State Government Appropriations
20	Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans. Appropriates funding to the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans.
21	Indian Affairs Council. Appropriates funding to the Indian Affairs Council.
22	Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans. Appropriates funding to the Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans.
23	Minnesota Historical Society. Appropriates funding to the Minnesota Historical Society, with amounts specified for certain purposes.
24	Board of the Arts. Appropriates funding to the Arts Board, with amounts specified for certain purposes.
25	Minnesota Humanities Center. Appropriates funding to the Humanities Center, with amounts specified for certain purposes.
26	Board of Accountancy. Appropriates funding to the Board of Accountancy.
27	Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design. Appropriates funding to the Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design.
28	Board of Cosmetologist Examiners. Appropriates funding to the Board of Cosmetologist Examiners.
29	Board of Barber Examiners. Appropriates funding to the Board of Barber Examiners.
30	Children, youth, and families. Appropriates funding to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families.
31	General contingent accounts. Appropriates money for unforeseen contingencies.

Section Description – Article 1: State Government Appropriations

- 32 **Tort claims.**
Appropriates funding for the payment of tort claims against the state.
- 33 **Minnesota State Retirement System.**
Appropriates money for aid to the Minnesota State Retirement System, with amounts specified for certain purposes.
- 34 **Public Employees Retirement Association.**
Appropriates money for aid to the Public Employees Retirement Association, with amounts specified for certain purposes.
- 35 **Teachers Retirement Association.**
Appropriates money for aid to the Teachers Retirement Association, with amounts specified for certain purposes.
- 36 **St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund.**
Appropriates money for aid to the St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association.
- 37 **Government and citizen services.**
Retroactively extends the availability of a \$5,000,000 appropriation to the Department of Administration to implement the updated Capitol Mall Design Framework.
- 38 **St. Anthony Falls study.**
Extends the due date and funding for a University of Minnesota geophysical study and hazard assessment of the St. Anthony Falls area and St. Anthony Falls cutoff wall in Minneapolis.
- 39 **Commissioner of management and budget.**
Modifies a 2024 law requiring Minnesota Management and Budget to transfer money from the health care access fund for the Minnesota insulin safety net program.

Article 2: State Government Statutory Provisions

Among other things, this article would require the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) to report to legislative committees regarding agency implementation of OLA recommendations; establish a Healthy Aging Subcabinet and Office of Healthy Aging; repeal the existing crime of Medical Assistance fraud and replace it with a new offense with a penalty of up to 20 years of imprisonment; modify education and reciprocity requirements for certified public accountants; and modify licensing requirements for lottery ticket retailers.

Section Description – Article 2: State Government Statutory Provisions

- 1 Leaders.**

Authorizes the house of representatives and senate to increase the number of leadership positions that may receive up to 140 percent of the compensation provided to other representatives and senators.

Effective date: This section would be effective retroactive to January 14th of this year.
- 2 Implementation of audit recommendations.**

Requires OLA, as resources permit, to submit an annual report to the leaders of each legislative committee with fiscal jurisdiction over an entity subject to OLA oversight. Requires OLA to report annually, as resources permit, to certain legislators regarding the legislative committees to which OLA presented this report during a public meeting.
- 3 Preparation; duties.**

Authorizes the ranking minority member of certain legislative committees to request a fiscal note. Under current law, only the committee chair may make this request. Background: a fiscal note is an estimate of the monetary impact (staff costs, information technology needs, etc.) for affected state agencies if a bill is enacted.
- 4 Distribution.**

Requires the Legislative Budget Office to distribute completed fiscal notes to the ranking minority members who requested them.
- 5 Healthy Aging Subcabinet.**

This section establishes a Healthy Aging Subcabinet and an Office of Healthy Aging and assigns duties to each entity.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes the subcabinet within Minnesota Management and Budget as a distinct entity dedicated to ensuring all Minnesotans age with dignity and have equitable health and well-being opportunities.

Subd. 2. Membership; chair. Provides that the subcabinet consists of the heads of state agencies that administer policies that impact aging Minnesotans, as determined by the governor in consultation with the director appointed under subdivision 5. Designates the director as chair of the subcabinet.

Subd. 3. Purpose. Specifies the four-pronged purpose of the subcabinet.

Subd. 4. Duties. Requires the director to lead the Citizens' Engagement Council established under subdivision 6 in carrying out 12 specified duties, including integrating aging-related considerations into state agency planning and

Section Description – Article 2: State Government Statutory Provisions

operations, promoting the adoption of evidence-based approaches to support healthy aging across public and private sectors, and evaluating the oversight system for long-term care facilities, assisted living residences, and home-care agencies to ensure public safety and accountability.

Subd. 5. Director; Office of Healthy Aging; staffing; duties. Requires the governor to appoint the subcabinet's director, who must possess a background in public health, public policy, and community engagement, have knowledge of older adult abilities and needed supports, and who may have experience working with an aging population. Establishes the director's minimum responsibilities, including leading and coordinating the duties of the Healthy Aging Subcabinet and appointing members to a Citizens' Engagement Council. Authorizes the director to hire additional staff.

Subd. 6. Citizens' Engagement Council; public engagement. Requires the director to appoint a Citizens' Engagement Council consisting of 20 diverse members from differing geographic regions and demographic groups. Provides additional criteria for council membership. Establishes the three-pronged purpose of this council and authorizes compensation of \$55/day plus expenses for council members (see Minn. Stat. § 15.059).

Subd. 7. Discretionary powers. Authorizes the Office of Healthy Aging to apply for and receive grants, issue grants, and enter into contracts subject to applicable law.

Subd. 8. Staff and administrative support. Requires Minnesota Management and Budget to coordinate with other agencies and provide staffing and administrative support.

Subd. 9. Public awareness. Requires the Office of Healthy Aging to maintain a website and publish annual reports to share and gather ideas.

Subd. 10. The Minnesota Healthy Aging Plan. Establishes deadlines and provides that the Minnesota Healthy Aging Plan must include recommendations from council members and other citizens that support older Minnesotans and their contributions and healthcare needs. Specifies ten areas that the plan must address.

Subd. 11. Annual report. Requires the Office of Healthy Aging to submit an annual report to the legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over aging policy and funding.

Section Description – Article 2: State Government Statutory Provisions

- 6 **Authority.**
Expands the scope of the attorney general’s authority to subpoena certain information in ongoing legitimate law enforcement investigations to include wage and employment records, insurance records related to claim settlement, and the financial records of the subject of an investigation of suspected Medical Assistance fraud.
- 7 **Duties and powers.**
In combination with section 8, this section changes the deadline for the State Board of Investment’s annual legislative report from December 31 to no later than March 31.
- 8 **Annual report.**
See section 7.
- 9 **Monitoring Office of the Legislative Auditor audits.**
Requires MMB to submit an annual report to OLA detailing the implementation status of all OLA recommendations issued in the previous five years, itemizing and explaining those that have not been implemented to date.
- 10 **Payments to state.**
Increases the regulatory fee for advance deposit wagering (ADW) on horse racing to two percent of all amounts wagered by Minnesota residents. Under current law and this bill, ADW fees are paid by authorized advance deposit wagering providers and the proceeds are appropriated to the Racing Commission to regulate horse racing, pari-mutuel wagering, and card clubs.
- 11 **Legal representation.**
Makes a conforming change in a section authorizing the attorney general or a county attorney to initiate a criminal or civil action related to Medical Assistance fraud and other theft offenses. See section 20.

Effective date: This section would take effect August 1, 2025.
- 12 **Certificate; required education and experience until July 1, 2030.**
Provides that the existing education and experience requirements for certified public accounting (CPA) certification, including the 150 semester-hour education requirement, expire on July 1, 2030.
- 13 **Certificate; required education and experience after June 30, 2030.**
Establishes alternative CPA education and experience criteria that would replace the criteria in section 12 beginning July 1, 2030. In place of the 150 semester-hour

Section Description – Article 2: State Government Statutory Provisions

education requirement, applicants would be required to hold a master's degree and have at least one year of acceptable experience, or a bachelor's or graduate degree and at least two years of acceptable experience.

14 Transitional period.

Provides that from January 1, 2026, to July 1, 2030, the board must award CPA certification to a person who satisfies the education and experience criteria under section 12 or 13, and other relevant certification requirements in statute or rule.

Effective date: This section would take effect January 1, 2026.

15 Mobility.

Modifies reciprocity requirements for CPAs from other states. Provides that an individual whose principal place of business is in another state may operate in Minnesota without a license if the person is certified/licensed/permitted and in good standing in another state, has a bachelor's degree or higher with a concentration in accounting or an equivalent as determined by the board in rule, and has passed the Uniform CPA Examination.

Effective date: This section would take effect the day following final enactment.

16 Resonsible lottery official.

Defines this term for purposes of the lottery's retailer eligibility criteria and contract cancellation/suspension/refusal conditions, which are modified in sections 17 to 19. For retailers that are not organized as sole proprietorships, "responsible lottery officials" would be limited to those officers, directors, or owners that oversee lottery ticket sales.

17 Qualifications.

Establishes separate but parallel eligibility criteria for lottery ticket retailers that are sole proprietorships versus those retailers that are organized as a firm, partnership, or corporation. Clarifies that lottery retailer background checks must examine criminal records in other jurisdictions outside of Minnesota. Provides that for retailers that are not sole proprietors, the disqualifying conditions based on age, tax delinquency, convictions, familial relationships with lottery staff, etc., apply only to those employees that satisfy the definition of "responsible lottery official," as defined in section 16.

18 Criminal history.

Modifies procedures and requirements for background checks of lottery retailers.

Section Description – Article 2: State Government Statutory Provisions

- 19 Cancellation, suspension, and refusal to renew contracts or locations.**
Provides that the conviction criteria for which the lottery must cancel, suspend, or refuse to renew a retailer contract applies only to the retailer’s “responsible lottery officials,” as defined in section 16, when the retailer is not a sole proprietorship. Modifies the crimes for which the lottery may suspend or terminate a retailer’s contract from fraud, misrepresentation, and deceit, to any crime involving fraud or misrepresentation, or any gambling-related offense.
- 20 Medical Assistance fraud.**
Establishes that a person who makes a claim for payment from Medical Assistance funds commits a crime if the person intentionally submits the claim knowing, or having reason to know, that it is false. Establishes felony penalties that range from up to five years of imprisonment to up to 20 years of imprisonment. Authorizes claims made in a six-month period to be aggregated and establishes that an offense may be prosecuted in any place where part of the offense was committed or where the entity receiving the claim is located.

Effective date: This section would take effect on August 1, 2025, and would apply to crimes committed on or after that date.
- 21 Acts constituting fraud.**
Makes a conforming change to remove a portion of the theft statute that is replaced by the new Medical Assistance fraud crime in section 20.

Effective date: This section would take effect on August 1, 2025, and would apply to crimes committed on or after that date.
- 22 Limitations.**
Makes a conforming change to the statute of limitations for criminal offenses, including Medical Assistance fraud.

Effective date: This section would take effect August 1, 2025.
- 23 Open positions report.**
Requires Minnesota Management and Budget to report three times during the FY 2026-2027 biennium regarding certain unfilled positions in the executive branch.
- 24 Integrating application information and a referral process for the transit assistance program on the MNbenefits web portal.**
Requires the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, in consultation with others, to integrate application information and a referral process for the Transit Assistance Program into the MNbenefits web portal. Requires Metro Transit and the Metropolitan Council to continue to process applications for the Transit Assistance

Section Description – Article 2: State Government Statutory Provisions

Program after the information and referral process are integrated into the MNbenefits web portal.

Background: the MNbenefits web portal is a partnership between the state agencies that administer benefit programs, Minnesota IT Services, and Minnesota counties and Tribal nations, and allows individuals to apply for multiple benefit programs in one application.

25 Statue replacement.

Authorizes the Department of Administration to accept private funds and replace one of Minnesota's two statues in the United States Capitol.

Effective date: Provides that this section is effective only after the house and senate certify that the state has satisfied federal requirements for a statue replacement request (i.e., both bodies have passed a resolution, which is approved by the governor).

26 Revisor instruction.

Technical – directs the revisor of statutes to modify cross-references in Minnesota Statutes as needed to conform to this article's changes to the crime of Medical Assistance fraud.

Effective date: This section would take effect August 1, 2025.

27 Repealer.

Repeals the following statutes.

Subd. 1. Employee gainsharing. Repeals the statute that requires Minnesota Management and Budget to administer an employee gainsharing program.

Subd. 2. Advisory Council on Infrastructure. Repeals the statutes that govern this advisory council and require the Department of Administration to provide administrative support to the council.

Subd. 3. CPA substantial equivalence. Repeals the Minnesota Board of Accountancy rule governing substantial equivalency for CPAs from other states.

Effective date: This subdivision would take effect the day following final enactment.

Subd. 4. Medical Assistance fraud. Repeals the existing crime of Medical Assistance fraud, which is replaced with a new offense in this article.

Section	Description – Article 2: State Government Statutory Provisions
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Effective date: This subdivision would take effect August 1, 2025, which coincides with the effective date for the new crime of Medical Assistance fraud established in section 20.

Article 3: Business Filing Fraud and Deceptive Mailings

This article establishes a process for challenging and removing fraudulent business filings that were filed with the Office of the Secretary of State, authorizes the assessment of a late penalty, and prohibits deceptive business mailings.

Section	Description – Article 3: Business Filing Fraud and Deceptive Mailings
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1 Late renewal penalty.

Allows the secretary of state to assess a late penalty of up to \$25 when a person files for renewal or reinstatement of a business entity that was administratively dissolved due to failure to file prior to dissolution. Appropriates the proceeds to the secretary of state for three specified purposes. Requires the secretary of state to submit an annual report to the legislature identifying the amount of penalty revenue collected and the outcomes achieved under this section.

2 Scope.

Technical – updates a Government Data Practices Act cross-reference to conform to section 3.

3 Business fraud investigations.

Modifies the Government Data Practices Act to note that data maintained by the secretary of state and related to fraudulent business filing investigations is governed by section 12.

4 Citation and definitions.

Allows sections 300.70 to 300.78 to be cited as the Minnesota Business Filing Fraud Prevention Act. Defines key terms, including “complainant” and “filer.”

5 Declaration of wrongful filing.

Establishes a process for accepting and reviewing wrongful filing complaints.

Subd. 1. Form and contents of declaration. Allows a complainant to deliver a declaration of wrongful filing to the Office of the Secretary of State if they believe the document was not authorized and was filed with the intent to either modify business records or register a business using another person’s information. Requires a declaration of wrongful filing to contain certain information. Requires

Section Description – Article 3: Business Filing Fraud and Deceptive Mailings

the office to provide a form for declarations filed under this section. Provides that a false statement in a document submitted under this act is a violation of section 609.48 (i.e., perjury).

Subd. 2. Review of declaration. Requires the Office of the Secretary of State to promptly accept or reject a declaration of wrongful filing. Allows the office to reject a declaration that is incomplete or doesn't use the correct form, if the office reasonably believes it was delivered with the intent to harass or defraud, or if the office issued a prior final order on the filing at issue.

Subd. 3. Nonexclusive remedy. Provides that the remedies of this act are not exclusive and an aggrieved party can seek district court action without initiating or completing the processes of this section.

6 Notice.

Requires the Office of the Secretary of State to provide notice of a filed declaration to the complainant and filer. Requires the notice to include certain information. Provides mailing requirements the office must abide by for the notice. Deems that notice is received by the complainant and filer upon mailing. Allows the office to deem a filing fraudulent and immediately issue a final order if the notice the office mails to the filer is returned as undeliverable.

7 Response.

Requires the filer to respond to allegations in writing within 21 days of receipt of notice. Requires filers to provide any information that refutes allegations in the declaration.

8 Procedure when no response received.

Requires the Office of the Secretary of State to deem a filing fraudulent and issue a final order if the filer does not respond within 21 days of receiving the notice.

9 Procedure when response received.

Establishes a process for handling and evaluating responses submitted by the filer.

Subd. 1. Preliminary determination. If a timely response is received, requires the Office of the Secretary of State to investigate allegations in the declaration and response and make a preliminary determination regarding whether the filing is fraudulent. Allows the office to request additional information from the complainant and filer if necessary to make a preliminary determination.

Subd. 2. Notice of preliminary determination. Requires the office to send notice to the complainant and filer of the office's preliminary determination.

Section Description – Article 3: Business Filing Fraud and Deceptive Mailings

Subd. 3. Response. Allows the nonprevailing party to respond to the preliminary determination within ten days with additional information or evidence in support of their position. Allows the prevailing party to send additional information during that same time period.

Subd. 4. Procedure if no second response received. Provides that a preliminary determination becomes a final order if the nonprevailing party does not file a response in compliance with subdivision 3.

Subd. 5. Procedure if second response is received. Requires the office to consider additional information if provided in compliance with subdivision 3 before issuing a final order about the declaration.

Subd. 6. Factors. Requires the office to take certain information into account when making a preliminary or final determination.

10 Final order.

Requires the Office of the Secretary of State to issue a final order if it finds a filing is fraudulent. Requires that if a filing is found fraudulent, it must be treated as never having existed and provides that a fraudulently-filed business is dissolved. Allows the office to issue a final order stating that it is not removing the filing if it is deemed not fraudulent or the office has insufficient information.

11 Judicial review.

Creates an appeal system in district court if a party aggrieved by a final order issued by the Office of the Secretary of State chooses to appeal.

12 Data practices.

Classifies data collected by the Office of the Secretary of State as part of a fraudulent filing proceeding as not public data. Allows the office to release data to the attorney general to aid in an investigation, to a person or agency to aid in a criminal or civil investigation, or as required by a court order or other state or federal law.

13 Prohibition on deceptive business mailings.

Requires solicitations, as defined, to include certain information, be formatted in a specific way, and include a disclaimer. Provides that a person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and in violation of the Uniform Trade Practices Act.

14 Acts constituting.

Technical: adds a cross-reference to the crime of perjury for submitting knowingly false material statements to the Office of the Secretary of State.

Section	Description – Article 3: Business Filing Fraud and Deceptive Mailings
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| 15 | <p>Rulemaking.</p> <p>Allows the Office of the Secretary of State to adopt rules with no time limit to this authority.</p> <p>Effective date: Provides that this section takes effect the day following final enactment.</p> |
| 16 | <p>Effective date.</p> <p>Provides that the sections pertaining to fraudulent business filings take effect for filings made on or after January 1, 2026.</p> |

Article 4: Elections and Campaign Finance Appropriations

This article provides elections-related appropriations to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board and the secretary of state.

Section	Description – Article 4: Elections and Campaign Finance Appropriations
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| 1 | <p>Elections and campaign finance appropriations.</p> <p>Defines terms related to the appropriations contained in this article.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.</p> <p>Appropriates funds for fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027 to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, as detailed in the fiscal spreadsheet.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Secretary of state.</p> <p>Appropriates \$200,000 from the general fund to the secretary of state, for transfer to the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) account. This amount constitutes the state match requirement for new federal HAVA grants appropriated to the states by Congress in 2024. The remainder of the secretary of state's fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027 operating budget is appropriated in article 1.</p> |

Article 5: Elections and Campaign Finance Policy

This article includes a variety of policy changes to the laws governing elections administration, campaigns and voting, and economic interest disclosures required of certain candidates.

Section Description – Article 5: Elections and Campaign Finance Policy

1 Limitations.

Amends the law authorizing access by United States census workers to multiple unit dwellings. These workers must be permitted access, at a minimum, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on any day. In addition, access must be permitted on 24 hours prior notice by the workers, rather than requiring that the workers schedule a prior appointment.

2 Notice to residents.

Encourages the owner, manager, or operator of a multiple unit dwelling to notify residents of the days on which a United States census worker has provided notice of an intent to be present.

3 Time for filing.

Amends the deadline for a candidate to file a statement of economic interest with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. The new deadline is 14 days after the candidate filing period ends, rather than 14 days after the candidate actually files for the office.

This change is effective January 1, 2026.

4 Determination of residence.

Specifies that for a person committed to a secure treatment facility under chapter 253D (the Minnesota Sex Offender Program) as having a sexual psychopathic personality or as a sexually dangerous person, the person's residence for voting purposes is the person's last known residential address prior to the issuance of the commitment order.

5 Election day registration.

Eliminates a requirement that a residential facility operator provide a list of employees working in the facility to be used in election day registration. Instead, proof of employment provided by a residential facility employee is sufficient to demonstrate eligibility to vouch for the residence of those living in the facility. The secretary of state is required to publish guidance for residential facilities and residential facility employees on the vouching process and other requirements of this section.

This section also prohibits an election judge from vouching for any individual who appears in the precinct where the election judge is working.

Section Description – Article 5: Elections and Campaign Finance Policy

6 Additional proofs of residence permitted for students.

Provides that the additional proofs of residence permitted for postsecondary students registering on election day includes registration during the 18 day early voting period in advance of election day.

7 Form (voter registration applications).

Eliminates a requirement that a box indicating a voter's preference to join the permanent absentee voter list appear on the voter registration form.

8 Application procedures (absentee voting).

Establishes deadlines for the submission of absentee ballot applications. Applications may be submitted in person at any time no later than the day before the election, consistent with current law. Applications not submitted in person must be received not less than seven days before the day of the election. After seven days before the election, the secretary of state must replace the online absentee ballot application with information detailing the available options to vote before and on the upcoming election day.

This section also requires applicants using the online application to provide *both* a Minnesota driver's license or state ID card number and the last four digits of their Social Security Number, unless the applicant affirmatively certifies that they do not possess one of those numbers (the applicant would still be required to provide the other number).

If an application is received after 5:00 p.m. seven days prior to the election, the official in charge of the absentee ballot board must attempt to contact the applicant by telephone or email to notify the applicant of other opportunities to vote in the election. These attempts must be documented.

The timeline for delivery of an absentee ballot application by someone other than the voter is also modified; by this section, the application must be returned within seven days, rather than ten days, after the voter dated the application, and no later than seven days, rather than six days, prior to the election.

9 Generally (early voting).

Permits a municipality operating a designated absentee voting location to provide that location for only the 18 day early voting period, rather than the entire 46 day absentee voting period.

A county auditor may designate a municipal clerk to administer absentee and early voting only if the clerk accepts that responsibility.

Section Description – Article 5: Elections and Campaign Finance Policy

10 Marking and return by voter.

Updates terminology related to absentee ballot envelopes, and requires that an absentee ballot returned in person on election day must be submitted to the county auditor or municipal clerk by 5:00 p.m., rather than 8:00 p.m.

11 Procedures on receipt of ballots.

Updates terminology related to absentee ballot envelopes.

12 Temporary locations.

Permits federally recognized Indian Tribes to request that a temporary polling place for early voting be located on off-reservation Tribal Lands, in addition to the authority in current law for placement on reservation lands.

Provides notice requirements related to the designation of additional polling place locations that will be open for voting before election day. Within five business days of designating an additional location, a notice must be posted on the county's or municipality's websites, and on the website of the secretary of state. If a designation applies to both a primary and general election, a separate notice must be provided for each election and the notice for the general election must not be posted until after the date of the primary election.

13 Names of persons; absentee ballot applications.

Adds to the list of items that must be included on the public information list related to absentee ballot applications: the date on which an application was signed, the date on which the application was accepted, and the method of submission.

14 Opening of envelopes.

Provides additional requirements for ballot boards when reviewing and opening absentee envelopes, including verifying the number of envelopes and the number of ballots are equal, at various stages of the ballot board's work. The ballot board must notify the official responsible for the board's work if any discrepancy is discovered.

15 Storage and counting of absentee ballots.

Provides conforming changes related to the additional absentee ballot board requirements established in this bill.

16 Emergency response providers.

Provides that the absentee ballot application deadlines established in this bill do not apply to applications submitted by certain emergency response providers and utility workers deployed in response to an emergency.

Section Description – Article 5: Elections and Campaign Finance Policy

- 17 Reasonable accommodation for voter with disability.**
Provides that the absentee ballot application deadlines established in this bill do not apply to applications submitted by certain voters with a print disability, or with a disability that interferes with the effective reading, writing, or use of printed materials.
- 18 Processing of ballots.**
Establishes procedures for processing of ballots at the end of each day on which early voting occurs. These procedures include noting the date, voting location, and number of ballots cast; ensuring that the number of ballots removed from a ballot box is equal to the number of voter certificates that were signed by the voters; and sealing and securing all voted and unvoted ballots present in the early voting location.
- 19 Address, electronic mail address, and telephone number.**
Extends an existing requirement that candidates provide an email address, to include candidates for judicial office, county attorney, and county sheriff.

This section also provides standards for use of certain documents used by a candidate to prove their residence in the district.
- 20 Absent candidates.**
Extends a requirement that candidates provide proof of residence to include candidates filing using the special “absent candidate” procedure. The absent candidate filing procedure applies if the candidate will be absent from the state for the entirety of the filing period. Or the remainder of a filing period, in certain circumstances.
- 21 Other elections.**
Extends a requirement that candidates provide proof of residence to include candidates filling for city, town, and certain other elected offices.
- 22 Separate precincts; combined polling place.**
Requires that, where multiple polling places are combined in a single location, the secretary of state and county auditor must provide guidance to the election judges on the procedures used to ensure each voter is provided the correct ballot for the voter’s precinct. A map showing the precincts served by the combined polling place and a notice that multiple ballot styles are in use must be prominently displayed near the entrance to the polling place.
- 23 Notice to voters.**
Requires that, if the location of a polling place is changed, the local election official must post a notice at the closed location, and if practical, must also post a notice in a

Section Description – Article 5: Elections and Campaign Finance Policy

location visible to voters who vote from their vehicle. The notice is required to be posted for each special, primary, and general election until a presidential election or redistricting has occurred.

A sample notice to be used for this purpose must be prepared by the secretary of state.

24 Prohibited locations.

Prohibits polling places from being designated in any place, or in any adjoining room, to a location where cannabis products are served or sold, in addition to the existing prohibition on locations where intoxicating liquors or nonintoxicating malt beverages are sold.

25 Chain of custody plans.

Requires county auditors to develop a chain of custody plan to be used in all state, county, municipal, school district, and special district elections held in the county. Additional detail regarding the content of a chain of custody plan is provided.

Municipal, school district, and special district clerks are permitted to create a local chain of custody plan for elections not held in conjunction with a federal, state, or county election so long as it meets or exceeds the county chain of custody plan.

26 Party balance requirement.

Extends the existing law requiring party balance for election judges to include any location where ballots are being counted, recounted, or reviewed. Each major political party must be represented by at least one election judge in each precinct.

27 Appointment lists; duties of political parties and secretary of state.

Modifies standards and process related to the creation and submission of lists of individuals willing to serve as election judges, including the designation of individuals willing to serve as alternates in the event of an unexpected vacancy or if all positions representing a political party are not able to be filled.

The secretary of state is required to provide a form that may be used by a political party to recruit individuals willing to serve as election judges.

28 Election judges; oath.

Expands the oath required to be signed by election judges to include a prohibition on sharing materially false information, and a prohibition on intentionally hindering, interfering with, or preventing a person from voting, registering to vote, or aiding another person in voting.

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- 29 **Duties of county auditor.**
Requires that training provided to election judges by each county auditor be consistent with the training programs established by the secretary of state.
- 30 **Election judge advice telephone line.**
Requires the secretary of state to provide a dedicated telephone line for use by election judges on each state election day. The line must be available for election judges to clarify procedures in the event the municipal clerk and county auditor's offices cannot be reached.
- 31 **Errors and omissions; remedy.**
Provides a method of resolving allegations of an error or omission in the election administration process by mutual agreement of the impacted candidate and the entity responsible for administering the election.
- 32 **Procedure; voting prior to election day.**
For jurisdictions that conduct elections entirely by mail, requires ballots to be mailed at least 28 days before any election.
- 33 **Voter's Bill of Rights.**
Eliminates a reference to a prohibition on candidate's assisting a voter in marking a ballot. This change conforms to a court decision declaring this prohibition unconstitutional.
- 34 **Counting and initialing.**
Eliminates a reference to election judges initialing the "backs of" all ballots in a precinct. The initialing requirement would still remain, but would not specify where the initials must be placed.
- 35 **Physical assistance in marking ballots.**
Permits a voter who needs assistance in marking a ballot to request it at any location where ballots may be cast, including early and in-person absentee voting locations, and in a polling place on election day.
- 36 **Outside the polling place.**
Permits a voter who is unable to enter a polling place to mark and cast a ballot to do so from the voter's motor vehicle, at any location where ballots may be cast, including early and in-person absentee voting locations, and at a polling place on election day.

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37 Vacancy filled at general election.

In special elections to fill a vacant seat in the legislature on the date of the state general election, requires that the filing period for the vacancy to be concurrent with the filing period for the general election when practicable. If that filing period is not possible, the period must be at least five days and no more than ten days in length, excluding holidays.

38 Special election when legislature will be in session.

Amends the law governing special elections to fill a vacant seat in the legislature, when a legislative session will be active and the person elected can be seated and exercise duties immediately. The expedited timeline for these elections would apply to vacancies occurring up to the 50th day prior to the opening day of a session (rather than the 40th day prior); and the special election must be held no more than 40 days after a writ is issued (rather than 35 days after the writ). The candidate filing period would newly be required to be at least five days and no more than ten days in length, excluding holidays.

39 Special election at other times.

In special elections to fill a vacant seat in the legislature that do not occur simultaneously with a state general election, and in which the elected candidate cannot immediately be seated in an active legislative session, specifies that the candidate filing period be at least five days and no more than ten days in length, excluding holidays.

40 Filing period.

Modifies the required filing period for candidates running for office in a municipality that does not conduct a primary election, and which conducts its election in November. The filing period is required to be between 98 and 112 days prior to the November election, rather than between 84 and 98 days prior to the election.

This change is effective January 1, 2026.

41 Prohibited connections.

Requires that a password used to access any ballot recording or tabulating system be kept in a safe and secure place in the precinct so that it is not accessible to or visible by the public.

42 Information required.

Permits candidates and candidate campaign committees who file campaign finance reports under chapter 211A (most local offices file under this chapter) to attest that they do not possess an email address, if applicable.

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This change is effective January 1, 2026.

43 Publicly funded organizations; campaign expenditures prohibited.

Prohibits entities or organizations, including nonprofit organizations, that receive state funding from making a campaign expenditure or otherwise expending money for a political purpose, unless the entity or organization uses separate accounts for political activities and the activities supported by state funding. Other details are provided. “State funding” is defined to include receipt of public funds through a direct appropriation or legislative-named, competitive, or other form of grant.

44 Exceptions.

Amends the law authorizing access by candidates to multiple unit dwellings. Candidates must be permitted access, at a minimum, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on any day. In addition, access must be permitted on 24 hours prior notice by the candidate, rather than requiring a prior appointment.

45 Notice to residents.

Encourages the owner, manager, or operator of a multiple unit dwelling to notify residents of the days on which a candidate has provided notice of an intent to be present.

46 Ballot questions.

Extends the deadline for a special county election to be declared, to require the election within 84 days, rather than 74 days, after the resolution declaring the election is adopted.

47 Economic interest disclosure; Special School District No. 1.

Amends the deadline for a candidate for Minneapolis School Board to file a statement of economic interest with the school district. The new deadline is 14 days after the candidate filing period ends, rather than 14 days after the candidate actually files for the office.

This change is effective January 1, 2026.

48 Elections of municipal officers.

Requires the use of uniform election dates and ballot preparation laws, when a municipal officer election occurs as a result of a local government incorporation or consolidation.

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49 Repealer.

Repeals a law that permits untrained election judges to serve in precincts where fewer than 100 individuals voted in the last state general election.



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