

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill amends the law providing for optional forms of county government, Minnesota Statutes, chapter 375A. Currently, a county may provide for appointment, instead of election, of the county auditor, treasurer, recorder, or auditor-treasurer, but only after passing a referendum on the change. The bill eliminates the referendum requirement to allow instead the change to take place without a referendum if it is approved by an 80 percent vote of the county board, subject to a reverse referendum. Over the years, a number of counties have gotten special legislation authorizing them to make these positions appointed, most of them subject to reverse referendum, rather than follow the procedures requiring a referendum in chapter 375A.

Section

, 2 && Conforming cross references.

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3 **No referendum; four-fifths vote.** Allows a county to change to appointing instead of electing the county auditor, county treasurer, county auditor-treasurer, county recorder, by resolution of the county board without a voter referendum on the change if 80 percent of the board votes for the change, subject to a reverse referendum after publication of the proposed change once each week for two consecutive weeks in the official publication of the county. Provides for a referendum on the change if a petition requesting it is signed by at least ten percent of the registered voters of the county and filed with the county auditor. The referendum would be held at a regular or special election.