

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Article 1 of the bill specifies that except for special elections to fill a vacancy, state and local primaries and elections must be held on one of four dates: the second Tuesday in March, the third Tuesday in May, the first Tuesday after the second Monday in September, and the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. The bill also requires voting hours to be the same as the state general election in all places and for all elections. Article 2 makes technical conforming amendments in current law.

Section

Article 1

Uniform State and Local Election Days

1 Periodic Uniform Election Day.

Subd. 1. Short title. "Periodic Uniform Election Day Act of 2004."

Subd. 2. Elections covered. Applies to all state, county, municipal, and school district elections held in the state, including elections on ballot questions. Does not apply to an election to fill a vacancy and required by statute to be held sooner than the next day

Section

designated in subdivision 3, or to elections conducted by mail.

Subd. 3. Elections on designated days. (a) Elections must be held only on the second Tuesday in March, the third Tuesday in May, the first Tuesday after the second Monday in September, and the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

(b) Requires the time period for special elections to conform with this subdivision.

Subd. 4. Primaries. If other law provides for a primary but does not specify the date the primary may be held on one of the days designated in subdivision 3, clauses (1) to (3). The general election for the office must be held on the date listed in subdivision 3 that immediately follows the chosen primary date.

Subd. 5. Election times and polling places. Requires an election held on one of the designated dates to be held at the same polling places and during the same hours as the state general election.

Subd. 6. Applicable laws. Except as otherwise provided by this section, Minnesota election law remains applicable to elections held on any of the days listed in subdivision 3.

2 **Effective date.** January 1, 2005.

Article 2

Sections 1 to 20 amend provisions of the election code and local government referendum laws to conform to the date and voting hour requirements of article 1.

This article is effective January 1, 2005.