

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Permitting at-large elections

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Overview

This bill proposes to allow school boards to pass a resolution establishing an alley system for the at-large election of board members.

An alley system of voting for at-large seats allows non-incumbents to challenge a single board member for that board member's seat rather than have non-incumbents run on an at-large basis against all incumbents with expired terms. Proponents of the alley system argue that an alley system for an at-large election is a more responsive election system because it allows incumbent board members to be challenged on an individual basis.

Section

1 Alley system.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Allows a school board to pass a resolution establishing an alley system for the at-large election of school board members. Assigns incumbents by lot to the numbered positions.

Subd. 2. Notice. Contains language for providing notice of the filing dates if the school board establishes an alley system.

Section

Subd. 3. Affidavits of candidacy. Requires each affidavit of candidacy to specify the numbered position for which the candidate is filing if the school board establishes an alley system.

Subd. 4. Ballots. Contains language for the ballot heading if the school board establishes an alley system.

Subd. 5. Discontinuance. Allows the school board to pass a resolution to discontinue the alley system at any time.

Subd. 6. Incumbents. In cases where the board establishes or discontinues an alley system, states that incumbent board members serve the entire term for which they were elected under the previous election system. States that elections to fill a vacancy in a term must be held under the new system.

2 Effective date. Makes section 1 effective January 1, 2006.