

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Section

1 Meetings and Events After 6:00 P.M.

This bill allows public meetings and events to be conducted on the evening of March 4, 2008 .

Current law prohibits local governments, public schools, public colleges and universities, and state entities from scheduling a public meeting or event after 6:00 p.m. on the night of a major political party's precinct caucuses. Current law also provides that political parties must hold precinct caucuses on the first Tuesday in March. In 2008, the first Tuesday is March 4.

All three of Minnesota 's major political parties (Democratic-Farmer-Labor, Independence , and Republican) conducted their formal precinct caucuses on February 5, 2008 and have no plans to hold a caucus on March 4.

The Green Party, a minor political party under Minnesota law, is scheduled to hold its caucuses on March 4. However, current law does not prohibit public meetings and events on the night of a minor party's caucuses, unless a major party is also conducting a caucus at the same time.