

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

This bill modifies certain procedures related to the submission of residential housing lists by postsecondary institutions, permits online voter registration if the secretary of state's website allows it, and requires that the secretary of state's website contain a voter registration confirmation feature.

#### Section

- 1 Residential housing list.** Requires certain postsecondary institutions to provide a list of current students, along with the address of each student, to the secretary of state roughly one month prior to a November general election. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities institutions are required to provide a list; the University of Minnesota is requested to provide a list; and other postsecondary institutions may choose to do so at their discretion.  
  
The secretary of state must combine the data received from each institution and match student names and addresses with their appropriate precinct. At least two weeks prior to the election, the secretary of state is required to forward appropriate precinct lists to each county auditor for use in election day registration. The lists may be forwarded electronically, or in another medium if a written agreement is entered between the county and the secretary of state.  
  
If the data provided by an institution is insufficient to determine an appropriate precinct for a student, that student's name may not be forwarded to a county auditor.  
  
Student residential lists are used to verify the residence of students who appear in a polling place on election day and are not previously registered to vote.
- 2 Online voter registration.** Permits individuals who have a Minnesota driver's license, identification card, or learner's permit to register to vote online, if the secretary of state's website provides a process for online registration.
- 3 Election-day registration.** Eliminates a reference to certification of student housing lists to

a county auditor.

- 4 **Voter registration application.** Eliminates the requirement that a voter registration application be of suitable size and weight for mailing, unless the application is a paper application that will not be used for election day registration. Online registration would be permitted under section 2 of the bill.

This section also eliminates the requirement that a registration application contain a space for a voter's signature, unless it is a paper application.

- 5 **Registration confirmation.** Requires that the secretary of state's website provide a voter registration confirmation feature. An individual must be informed of their current registration status, and polling place location, if their name, address, and date of birth matches an active voter record in the statewide registration system.

If an individual's name, address, and date of birth does not match a record in the system, the individual must be advised to contact the county auditor for further information.

This section is not effective until the secretary of state has certified that the web site has been tested and operates properly.