

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 103  
**Version:** As introduced

**DATE:** February 2, 2015

**Authors:** Norton and others

**Subject:** Proposed state constitutional amendments; two-thirds legislative vote

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### Overview

This bill proposes a state constitutional amendment that would increase the threshold for legislative approval of proposed amendments from a majority vote to a two-thirds vote.

Seventeen states, including Minnesota, currently provide some form of majority vote requirement for legislative approval of proposed state constitutional amendments. Another 17 states require a two-thirds legislative vote, as proposed in the bill.

Some states require a three-fifths vote, and one requires a three-fourths vote for approval in a single legislative session. Many states have more complex standards based on the type of amendment or the number of sessions at which the legislature must vote for approval.

Ratification of this amendment would be subject to Minnesota's current procedures: legislative approval, by majority vote, and ratification by the people at a general election are required. Approval of the governor is not required. To be ratified, the proposed amendment must receive the affirmative vote of a majority of all voters voting at the election. This proposed amendment would appear on the ballot at the 2016 state general election.

### Section

- 1 Constitutional amendment proposed.** Provides the proposed new state constitutional text, as an amendment to Article IX, section 1, of the Minnesota Constitution.
- 2 Submission to voters.** Directs the proposed amendment to be submitted to the voters at the 2016 state general election, and specifies the wording of the question that must appear on the ballot at that election.