

**2019 House Elections and Campaign Finance Omnibus
Government Operations/First Subcommittee Engrossment (SCEH1603-1)**

Topic	Source	Summary	Location in SCEH1603-1
Article 1: Elections and Voting Rights			
Automatic voter registration	HF 45 (Schultz)	Establishes an “opt out” voter registration process for applicants for a Minnesota driver’s license, state identification card, or learner’s permit. All applicants who do not decline would be registered by the secretary of state following a review to determine the applicant’s eligibility to vote. Applicants who are already registered would have their registrations updated.	1, 8
School board vacancies	HF 839 (Huot)	Allows members appointed to a school board in order to fill a vacancy to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. Existing law that directs a special election to be conducted in most circumstances is eliminated.	2
Transit service on election day	HF 489 (Dehn), as amended	Directs certain public transit providers to provide fixed-route public transit service free of charge on the day of the state general election.	3, 36, 71
Restoration of voting rights	HF 40 (Dehn), as amended	Restores voting rights to individuals convicted of a felony once they have completed any term of incarceration resulting from the conviction. Under current law, voting rights for these individuals are restored only upon complete discharge of the sentence. Informational materials must be prepared by the secretary of state, and notices must be provided by certain corrections officials to a person whose rights are restored.	4, 6, 10, 37, 70, 73
Early voting	HF 1371 (Long)	Establishes standards and procedures for “early voting” in Minnesota. Distinct from absentee voting, early voting permits a voter to cast a ballot at a centralized polling location during a specified period prior to election day. The bill provides for early voting in all federal, state, and county elections, from 30 days prior through the third day before the election. An existing authorization for local governments to choose to offer a version of early voting (in-person absentee voting using a ballot box) is repealed.	5, 11-13, 16, 20, 21, 23-32, 59, 60, 75-77
Permanent absentee voters	HF 1372 (Long), with subcommittee amendment	Authorizes voters to request that an absentee ballot be delivered automatically prior to an election. Under current law, a voter may request that an absentee ballot application be delivered automatically, but the voter must still complete and return the application before being provided the absentee ballot itself.	14, 17, 18, 22

Topic	Source	Summary	Location in SCEH1603-1
Presidential nomination primary	HF 1153 (Halverson), with subcommittee amendment	Restricts access to a voter's political party choice at the presidential nomination primary to only the party designated by the voter – that information would not be publicly accessible by others.	7, 37, 64-68
Landlord obligation to provide voter information	HF 979 (Gomez)	Directs the secretary of state to prepare written materials to assist tenants in the process of voter registration and locating the precinct in which the tenant resides. Landlords must provide a copy of these materials to each tenant who is at least 18 years of age within 30 days after a lease is entered.	9, 72
Electronic transmission of absentee voting materials	HF 1152 (Freiberg), with subcommittee amendment	Authorizes voters with a temporary or permanent disability to request that absentee ballots, instructions, and related materials be transmitted to the voter electronically. The voter would still be required to return a paper ballot, in a sealed envelope. A postage-paid envelope would be mailed to the voter for that purpose.	15, 35
In-person absentee voting locations	HF 1818 (Bernardy)	Authorizes designated in-person absentee voting locations to be opened for fewer than the 46 days prior to an election, if notice is provided on the jurisdiction's website and to the secretary of state. A voter must still be able to submit an absentee ballot at the office of the county auditor during the full 46 day absentee voting period.	19
Electronic voting systems	HF 1098 (Bernardy), with subcommittee amendment	Expands the types of electronic voting systems that may be certified for use in Minnesota to include systems that produced a marked paper ballot using a touch screen or other electronic device. Additional details on the functionality of the system, and a process to provide for voter anonymity in the event of a recount of the ballots in a precinct using multiple types of voting system, are included.	33, 39, 56, 57, 61
Elections by mail	HF 1603 (Dehn)	Authorizes the option of mail balloting for all towns, and all cities with fewer than 400 registered voters, regardless of their geographic location in the state. Under current law, these towns and cities are only eligible if they are located outside of a metropolitan-area county.	34
Assisting voters in a polling place	HF 94 (Vang)	Eliminates the existing three-person cap on the number of voters a person may provide assistance to in a polling place.	38
Special election timeline	HF 1628, as amended (Sundin), with subcommittee amendment	Extends the period for conducting a special election to fill a vacant legislative seat by two weeks, in cases where an expedited process is required in order to allow the person elected to be seated quickly for a legislative session. Special primaries and special elections are prohibited during the four days before or after a holiday. A process for reimbursing local governments for the cost of conducting special elections to fill vacant state and federal offices is also included.	40-44

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Ranked-choice voting	HF 983 (Elkins)	Authorizes all local governments the option to elect local officials using ranked-choice voting, and establishes uniform procedures and requirements for the conduct of these elections.	45-55, 58, 60, 62, 63
National Popular Vote Interstate Compact	HF 1941 (Lesch)	Adopts an interstate compact related to election of the President: if a sufficient number of other states also ratify, this compact would require Minnesota (and other participating states) to obligate their electoral college votes to the winner of the national popular vote for president, rather than allocating those votes based on the vote totals from the state.	69
HAVA Election Security Appropriations	HF 14 (Nelson)	Appropriates federal money already allocated to Minnesota under the Help America Vote Act to the secretary of state for purposes allowed under the federal law (improving the administration and security of elections).	74
Article 2: Campaign Finance			
Hennepin County Elections	HF 1994 (Freiberg), as amended, with subcommittee amendment	Transfers oversight of certain campaign finance reporting requirements for candidates and committees associated with certain elected offices and ballot questions in (1) Hennepin County, (2) any city located wholly within Hennepin County that has a population of 75,000 or more, and (3) the Minneapolis school district. Under current law, the Hennepin County elections administrator receives campaign finance-related reports. This bill instead places those responsibilities under the jurisdiction of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.	1-9, 11-14, 16-21, 26, 27
“Expressly advocating”	HF 2050 (Bahner)	Expands the definition of “expressly advocating” to include certain types of communications that are susceptible of no reasonable interpretation except as a campaign-related communication, even if the communication doesn’t use the “magic words” of a campaign, such as a “vote for” or “vote against...” This definition is used to determine when the expenditures supporting a communication are subject to reporting and oversight by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.	6
Noncampaign disbursement for security-related expenses	HF 673 (Lucero), with modifications	Authorizes a campaign to make an expenditure for certain security-related expenses for a candidate and any immediate family members of the candidate who live in the same household and report it as a “non-campaign disbursement.”	10
Electioneering communications	HF 2050 (Bahner), with subcommittee amendment	Establishes a campaign finance reporting structure for “electioneering communications.” An electioneering communication is one that refers to a clearly-identified candidate, within a short time before an election (30 days before a primary or 60 days before a general election), that is targeted to the relevant electorate, and which is made without the authorization or participation of the candidate or the candidate’s committee.	15, 20, 22-25

Topic	Source	Summary	Location in SCEH1603-1
Article 3: Census and Redistricting			
Redistricting Advisory Commission	HF 1605 (Klevorn), as amended, with technical and other modifications	Establishes a Redistricting Advisory Commission that includes five retired judges and 12 members of the public selected through an extensive application process to ensure political balance. The commission is responsible for drawing and recommending new congressional and legislative district boundaries after each decennial census. A number of details related to the commission’s structure and workflow are provided.	1, 6
Districting principles	HF 1605 (Klevorn), as amended	Establishes a series of principles to guide the drawing of congressional and legislative district boundaries.	2
LCC duties related to redistricting	HF 1605 (Klevorn)	Establishes a series of technical details regarding the role of the Legislative Coordinating Commission related to the process of redistricting, including designation of the population database to be used.	3
Redistricting of local governments	HF 1605 (Klevorn), as amended	Establishes standard and procedures, including the requirement of a commission, for redistricting in certain large counties and cities.	4
Access to multi-unit residential facilities	HF 2059 (Lee), with modifications (<i>see also</i> HF 1644 – Long)	Authorizes U.S. Census workers to access multi-unit housing facilities (apartments, dormitories, nursing homes, and the like) for purposes of conducting official work during each decennial census.	5