

# House Research Act Summary

**CHAPTER:** 303

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**TOPIC:** Electronic Voting by Cooperatives

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## Overview

The act allows electronic voting by directors and members of cooperatives, which are businesses organized under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 308A.

- 1 **Vote by mail or electronic means.** Amends prior law that allows voting by mail for cooperative directors if authorized by the articles or bylaws. Authorizes electronic voting if authorized by the articles or bylaws and if the cooperative is able to authenticate who is casting the vote.
- 2 **Vote by mail or electronic means for telephone cooperative.** Amends prior law that allows mail voting for telephone cooperative directors if authorized by the articles or bylaws. Adds to the statute, "voting by electronic means" if authorized by the articles or bylaws.
- 3 **Voting method.** Allows a cooperative member to vote electronically at a members' meeting if the board authorizes electronic voting. Prior law allowed voting in person or by mail but not by proxy.
- 4 **Absentee ballots.** Amends the absentee ballot provision of the cooperative statute. Allows an absent member to vote electronically, if the cooperative is able to authenticate who is casting the vote.