Overview

The bill proposes a constitutional amendment and related statutory changes that would alter the names and authority of both houses of the legislature and the terms, districts, powers, and duties of legislators, effective in 2003. The state Council would consist of 48 members, the Assembly of 120 members; members would serve normal terms of six years and four years, respectively. Legislative districts would be distributed among, and be contained within, congressional districts. The Council would not participate with the Assembly in all legislative decisions, only those decisions specified by the constitution. Each member of the Council would serve also as a member of the governing board of a regional council, based on residency. One regional council, the Metropolitan Council, would be for the metropolitan area; another would be established for the remainder of the state.

Section

1 Constitutional Amendment. Proposes amendments to the constitution with the following main requirements and effects:

The names of the two houses of the legislature would be the Council and the Assembly.

The Council would be limited to 48 members.

Council and Assembly districts would be contained within the boundaries of congressional districts.

Members of the Assembly would have four-year terms, and members of the Council would have six-year terms, except that all legislators would stand for election from new districts after each reapportionment.

Each member of the Council would serve also as a member of the governing board of a regional council, one for the metropolitan area, the other for the remainder of the state.

Bills would originate in the Assembly and would be acted on and passed only by the Assembly, with certain exceptions. The concurrence of the Council would be required...
to: (1) pass a law affecting the number or districts of legislators; (2) pass a law having certain effects on the regional councils; (3) pass a law that creates or eliminates a state tax, that increases or decreases the general rate of a state tax, or that expands the taxable base of a state tax; (4) pass a law authorizing public debt of the state; and (5) override a veto.

The Council would confirm appointments of the governor.
The Council would try impeachments.
The concurrence of the Council would be required to propose an amendment to the constitution or to call a constitutional convention.

2 Question. States the question to be submitted to the people, at the 2000 election: Shall the constitution be amended to rename the two houses of the legislature, to extend the terms of legislators, to change requirements for drawing legislative districts, to limit the legislative authority of the Council, and to extend the authority of the members of the Council to include regional government and administration?

3 Number of members. Sets the number of legislators by law. The Council would number 48, the maximum permitted by the proposed constitutional amendment. The Assembly would number 120.

4 Legislative districts. Allocates six single-member Council districts and 15 single-member Assembly districts to each congressional district.

5 Metropolitan Council. Amends the law on the membership of the Metropolitan Council to conform to the bill. The Metropolitan Council would be composed of the members of the state Council who are residents of the metropolitan area. The chair would be elected by the members.

6 Greater Minnesota Regional Council. Establishes, by law, a regional council for the area of the state outside of the metropolitan area, if the proposed constitutional amendment is adopted. The regional council would be composed of the members of the state Council who are residents of the area of the state under the jurisdiction of the regional council.

7 Effective date. Makes the constitutional amendment and the statutory changes effective beginning in 2003, if the amendment is adopted.

8 Repealer. Repeals provisions relating to the appointment and term of members of the Metropolitan Council, if the constitutional amendment is adopted.