

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H. F. 781
Version: First Engrossment
DATE: April 23, 2001
Authors: Hilty and Others
Subject: Election of Agriculture Commissioner
Analyst: Mark Shepard, 651-296-5051

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

House File 781 proposes a constitutional amendment to make the office of commissioner of agriculture a statewide elected office.

Section

Article 1: Constitutional Amendment; Elected Agriculture Commissioner

- 1 **Constitutional amendment.** Proposes that if the voters adopt the constitutional amendment, the commissioner of agriculture would join governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor, and attorney general as members of the executive department. The term of office would be four years.
- 2 **Election.** If the voters adopt the proposed amendment, the commissioner of agriculture would be elected in November, 2004, for a term beginning the following January.
- 3 **Schedule and question.** This section quotes the question that would appear on the ballot.

Article 2: Conforming Amendments

- 1 **Campaign expenditure amounts.** Adds the commissioner of agriculture to the list of statewide office seekers limited to a campaign expenditure amount of \$135,559.
- 2 **Departments of the state.** Removes the department of agriculture from the list of departments.
- 3 **Applicability.** Removes the title of "commissioner" from the head of the agriculture department (which isn't a department after the amendment of section 2).
- 4 **Creation of department.** Strikes references to the governor appointing the commissioner.
- 5 **Effective date.** Campaign spending limits for candidates for the office of commissioner of agriculture are effective immediately if the voters adopt the constitutional amendment. The balance of article 2 is effective in January of 2005.