HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Under general law in chapter 375A, a county may make the offices of auditor-treasurer and recorder appointive if approved by a referendum. This bill allows Polk county to make the offices of the county auditor-treasurer and the county recorder appointed positions, subject to a four-fifths vote of the county board and reverse referendum. Last session, special legislation authorized Cass and Goodhue counties to do the same thing, subject to the same conditions. Hubbard county was authorized to change the offices of treasurer, auditor, and recorder to appointed offices, and Wright county was authorized to change the office of recorder to an appointed office, all subject to the same conditions.

Section

1 **Polk county officers may be appointed.**

Subd. 1. Auditor-treasurer; recorder may be appointed. Provides that if Polk county adopts a resolution, the offices of county auditor-treasurer and county recorder may be appointive positions, notwithstanding the general law requiring them to be elective.

Subd. 2. Board controls, may change as long as duties done. Directs that the duties of the county auditor-treasurer and county recorder be discharged by the county board through department heads appointed by the board if a resolution is adopted making the office appointive.

Subd. 3. Incumbents to complete term. Provides for the officials elected at the last general election to continue to serve until the completion of the term of office to which the person was elected or until a vacancy occurs.

Subd. 4. Publishing resolution; petition, referendum. Requires 80 percent of the county board to approve the resolution to make a position appointive. Requires published notice and an opportunity for public comment at the next regular meeting of the county board after the notice. Provides for a reverse referendum.

Subd. 5. Effective date. After local approval.