



Laws 2025, Chapter 39 – STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS FINANCE AND POLICY OMNIBUS (S.F. No. 3045)

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Article 1 – Appropriations

Sections 1-37 and 45-46 appropriate money and make transfers from the general fund and other named funds for operations of several state agencies, constitutional officers, and the legislature, and for other specified purposes, as detailed on the spreadsheet prepared by Andrew Erickson, Fiscal Analyst.

Section 38 [Laws 2023, chapter 53, article 17, section 2, subd. 1] amends appropriation language relating to the Capitol Area community vitality account.

Sections 39, 41, and 43 extend the availability of appropriations made in the 2023 session for the implementation of the Capitol Mall design framework, a geophysical study and hazard assessment of the St. Anthony Falls area and cutoff wall, and the Amateur Sports Commission.

Section 40 cancels an unused portion of a fiscal year 2025 appropriation to Minnesota Management and Budget for an interagency collaboration to develop data collection standards.

Section 42 corrects the account receiving a transfer in a 2023 session law from the insulin safety net program account to the insulin repayment account.

Section 44 authorizes agencies to carryforward unexpended and unencumbered nongrant operating balances from one fiscal biennium to another for the next three biennia.

Article 2 – State Government Policy

Section 1 [State Fossil; 1.1466] designates the giant beaver as the official state fossil of the state. Identifies the beaver by its scientific name in Latin, and by its name in Dakota and Ojibwe languages.

Section 2 [State Constellation; 1.1493] designates Ursa Minor as Minnesota’s official state constellation.

Section 3 [Officers and Employees; 3.06] authorizes the senate to elect a president who is a member of the senate.

Section 4 [Leaders; 3.099, subd. 3] increases the number of leadership positions to whom the house and the senate may pay salaries of up to 140 percent of member compensation.

Section 5 [Chair and vice chair; 3.303, subd. 3] specifies that when not serving as chair, the speaker of the house of representatives or the president of the senate serves as the Legislative Coordinating Commission’s vice-chair.

Section 6 [Definitions; 3.305, subd. 1] adds the Legislative Coordinating Commission to the definition of “joint (legislative) offices.”

Section 7 [Joint legislative studies; 3.305, subd. 9] provides that an appropriation of funding for a joint legislative study that is assigned by law to an existing legislative office should be made to the office itself, not to the Legislative Coordinating Commission.

Section 8 [Staff; compensation; 3.971, subd. 2;] requires the legislative auditor to establish a Special Reviews Division.

Section 9 [Special reviews; 3.971, subd. 8a;] authorizes the legislative auditor to investigate allegations that an individual or organization subject to an Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) audit has not complied with a legal requirement. Under current law, the OLA is authorized to investigate allegations that an individual or organization has failed to comply with a legal requirement specifically related to the use of public money, public resources, or government data classified as not public. Authorizes the OLA to conduct a special review to follow up on a prior special review to assess what changes have occurred.

Section 10 [Obligation to notify the legislative auditor; 3.971, subd. 9;] expands the list of officers who are required to notify the legislative auditor when the officer obtains information indicating that public money or other public resources may have been used for an unlawful purpose. Under current law, the chief executive, financial, and information officers are subject to this obligation to report. This section adds the following positions to the list of officers who are obligated to report: deputy and assistant chief executive officers, chief administration officers, chief investigative officers, heads of divisions, bureaus, departments, institutes, or other organizational units, and board chairs, where applicable.

Section 11 [Implementation of audit recommendations; 3.971, subd. 10] requires the

legislative auditor to report annually to the legislature on whether audited entities have implemented OLA recommendations and listing standing committees to which the OLA presented OLA reports in a public hearing.

Sections 12 [Duties and powers; 11A.07, subd. 4] and 13 [Annual report; 11a.07, subd. 4b] change the deadline for the State Board of Investment's annual legislative report from December 31 to March 31.

Section 14 [Contracts; 11A.24, subd. 8] exempts contracts entered into by the State Board of Investment related to certain investments from new restraints on contract terms.

Section 15 [Procedure when data is not accurate or complete; 13.04, subd. 4] authorizes the responsible authority under the Government Data Practices Act to submit to the Department of Administration the private data at issue when an individual appeals the responsible authority's determination regarding the accuracy or completeness of public or private data about the individual. Allows the department to disclose any private data in the appeal record to the Office of Administrative Hearings. If an appeal results in the responsible authority correcting or destroying data, this section would classify as private any data that the Department of Administration retains for record-keeping purposes.

Section 16 [Data Sharing; 13.357] authorizes a government entity to disclose data relating to suspected or confirmed fraud in public programs to any other government entity, federal agency, or law enforcement agency if the access would promote the protection of public resources, promote the integrity of public programs, or aid the law enforcement process.

Section 17 [Creation; 14.48, subd. 1] changes the name of the Office of Administrative Hearings to the Court of Administrative Hearings.

Section 18 [Chief Administrative Law Judge; 14.48, subd. 2;] is a conforming change.

Section 19 [Writing Required; 14.62, subd. 1;] is a conforming change.

Section 20 [Administrative Law Judge Decision Final; 14.62, subd. 2a;] is a conforming change.

Section 21 [Agency Request for Remand; 14.62, subd. 2b;] creates a process for an agency to request a remand of a decision of an administrative law judge for a finding of fact, conclusion of law, or recommendation. Specifies information that the agency must include in a request for remand and sets a deadline for requesting remand with flexibility for good cause shown. Requires the chief judge or designee to accept a request for remand if: (1) the agency rejects a recommendation to grant summary disposition; (2) a party who had procedurally defaulted during an administrative proceeding seeks to participate; or (3) the agency identifies a need for additional proceeding following remand from the Minnesota Court of Appeals or Minnesota Supreme Court, or after identification of a mathematical or clerical error. Requires the chief judge or designee to assign an administrative law judge to conduct proceedings on the remand after a request for remand is accepted by the chief judge or designee.

Section 22 [Program Payments Withheld; Fraud; 15.013] authorizes an agency to withhold payments for 60 days to a program participant when the agency head determines that a preponderance of evidence shows that the program participant has committed fraud. Provides for the program participant to challenge the agency head's determination through a contested case proceeding or an action in court. Authorizes an agency head to petition the court for a temporary order under Rule 65 of the Minnesota Rules of Civil Procedure when the agency head determines that a preponderance of evidence shows that the program participant has committed fraud. Requires agencies and Minnesota Management and Budget to report to the legislature on withheld payments, with specified information, by March 2026. Provides for classification of data during the administrative withholding period. This section expires July 1, 2027.

Section 23 [Reporting Alleged Misused of Public Resources or Data; 15.0573;] requires the commissioner or chief executive officer of each department, board, commission, office, or other agency, to ensure that employee and nonemployee concerns about the misuse of public money, other public resources, or government data is promptly directed to an officer who is obligated to report the information to an obligated officer or the legislative auditor. The commissioner of management and budget must develop a policy for the process by which concerns are raised to an obligated officer or the legislative auditor.

Section 24 [Organizational Charts Posted; 15.0574] requires state agencies to post an organizational chart on the agency's website that includes the names of, and contact information for, the agency head, deputy and assistant agency heads, and the head of each division or bureau within the agency.

Section 25 [Local News Organization Advertising by State Agencies; 15.442;] requires agencies to report annually on their websites on specified topics related to their advertising. This section expires February 2, 2031.

Section 26 [SAVI Program; 15.761] establishes a retained savings program to encourage state agencies to innovate and identify efficiencies and cost savings. Allows agencies to retain and carry forward half of any amount attributable to unanticipated innovation, efficiencies, or creative cost-savings.

Section 27 [Submission of recommendations and determinations; 15A.082, subd. 3] modifies the deadline for the Compensation Council's recommendations for the salaries of justices and judges. Moves the deadline from April 1 each odd-numbered year to September 1 each even-numbered year.

Section 28 [No ex parte communications; 15A.082, subd. 7] provides that the existing prohibition on communications between members of the Compensation Council and those whose compensation the council determines or recommends does not apply to testimony provided during council meetings, other communications when a majority of council members are present, or communications between a council member who is an attorney and an agency head, judge, or justice when such communication is necessary to represent the member's client.

Section 29 [Monitoring Office of the Legislative Auditor audits; 16A.057, subd. 5] requires the commissioner of management and budget to submit an annual report to the OLA detailing the implementation status of all OLA recommendations issued in the previous five years, itemizing and explaining those that have not been implemented.

Section 30 [Forecast parameters; 16A.103, subd. 1a] precludes MMB from assuming expenditures for debt service on an anticipated bonding bill.

Section 31 [Report on Budget Reserve Percentage; 16A.152, subd. 8] changes the month for the annual report from the commissioner of management and budget to the legislature on the percentage of the current biennium's general fund nondedicated revenue is recommended as a budget reserve.

Section 32 [Lapse; 16A.28] provides an exception to the general appropriation cancellation rules for money carried forward under the SAVI program established under a prior section. This section is effective June 30, 2025.

Section 33 [Federal Assistive Technology Act; 16B.055, subd. 1] adds a member from the Board of Aging to the Minnesota Assistive Technology Advisory Council, which is established in law to fulfill the responsibilities required in the 21st Century Assistive Technology Act, a federal law. Makes other technical corrections to the name and the cite to the relevant Public Law.

Section 34 [Other Projects; 16B.335, subd. 2] clarifies requirements for certain types of notice to the legislature about capital projects.

Under current law, final plans for a capital project cannot be prepared until after certain members of the legislature have received program plans and cost estimates for construction, major remodeling projects, or land acquisition. This notice to the legislature is typically referred to as a “16B letter.” Some types of projects are exempted from this requirement. For other projects that are not construction, major remodeling, or land acquisition, a simple notice that work is ready to proceed is required. This section clarifies that this second type of notice is required for all capital projects for which a specific appropriation is made, even if the project is of a type that is exempted from the “16B letter” requirement.

Section 35 [Reimbursements; 16B.48, subd. 4] changes the date from July 1 to September 15 by which the commissioner of administration must annually report the rates to be charged for the general services revolving funds.

Section 36 [Vehicles; 16B.54, subd. 2] adds the Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care to the list of people for whom state-provided motor vehicles are not required to be marked.

Section 37 [Definitions; 16B.97, subd. 1] adds a definition of “grantee” for purposes of the grants management statutes. Exempts capital project grants from certain grants management statutes.

Section 38 [Limitation; 16B.98, subd. 1] requires that a grant recipient’s administrative costs be necessary and reasonable, and removes a requirement that an agency “minimize” administrative costs. Exempts capital project grants from this requirement.

Section 39 [Reporting of Violations 16B.98, subd. 4] requires state employees to promptly report violations of grantmaking laws or rules to their supervisor or manager, the department of administration, or the OLA. Under current law, state employees are encouraged to make such reports. If the employee reports to their supervisor, manager, or the department of administration, then the supervisor, manager, or department of administration must immediately notify OLA. Eliminates language that currently restricts the information that OLA may report to the Legislative Audit Commission when OLA receives multiple complaints about the same agency.

Section 40 [Creation and validity of grant agreements; 16B.98, subd. 5] requires recipients of state grants to post specified information about the grantee’s leadership and the person who manages and oversees the grant on the grantee’s website. Authorizes an agency to suspend its performance on a contract when funding is canceled, withdrawn, or terminated.

Section 41 [Grants management training; 16B.98, subd. 6a] requires agency staff with grant management responsibilities to complete initial grants management training before assuming grants management job duties and to complete continuing grants management training on an annual basis.

Section 42 [Agency Authority to Not Award Grant; 16B.981, subd. 4] shortens the time that a grantee has to respond to an agency’s demand for additional information to determine if there is a substantial risk that a potential grantee cannot or would not perform duties required under a grant agreement. Streamlines the process for an agency’s decision to not award a grant based on a risk of nonperformance by eliminating an extra opportunity for a potential grantee to present additional written information.

Section 43 [Authority; 16B.991, subd. 2] is a technical clarifying change.

Section 44 [Creation and validity of contracts; 16C.05, subd. 2] authorizes an agency to suspend its performance on a contract when funding is canceled, withdrawn, or terminated.

Section 45 [Unenforceable terms; 16C.05, subd. 8;] precludes certain terms in state contracts, as follows:

- (1) a requirement for the state to indemnify another unless specifically authorized in statute;
- (2) a term that binds a party but may be unilaterally changed by the other party;
- (3) a term that requires mandatory arbitration;
- (4) a term that extends arbitration obligations to disputes related to the original contract;
- (5) a term that construes the contract under the laws of another state;
- (6) a term that obligates state funds in subsequent fiscal years in the form of automatic renewal, which is defined as a plan or arrangement in which a subscription or purchasing agreement is automatically renewed at the end of a definite term for a subsequent term; or

(7) a term that is inconsistent with the state’s Data Practices Act.

Any of these terms, if included in a contract, is void, but the rest of the contract remains enforceable. Requires the commissioner of administration to post a copy of this section on its website.

Section 46 [Evaluation; 16C.137, subd. 2;] changes a requirement for a report to the governor and legislature to a requirement to post on a public dashboard regarding goals and directives for each department’s compliance with purchasing vehicles according to a preference order for fuel types, use of renewable transportation fuels, and the delivery of information through the internet to reduce the department’s fleet.

Section 47 [Small business; 16C.16, subd. 2] allows the commissioner of administration to establish a definition for “small business” for purposes of state contracting. Current law relies on the definition in federal rules.

Section 48 [Purchasing methods; 16C.16, subd. 6] makes certain subcontracting requirements applicable to prime contractors who are small businesses or small targeted group businesses.

Section 49 [Veteran-owned small businesses; 16C.16, subd. 6a] makes certain subcontracting requirements applicable to veteran-owned small businesses that provide professional and technical services or construction services.

Section 50 [Economically disadvantaged areas; 16C.16, subd. 7] makes certain subcontracting requirements applicable to small businesses located in an economically disadvantaged area.

Section 51 [Generally; 16D.09, subd. 1] changes the due date for a report from the commissioner of management and budget to the legislature on uncollectable debt.

Section 52 [Retired employees; 43A.27, subd. 3] allows a spouse of an eligible retired employee to purchase hospital, medical, and dental coverage under the State Employees Group Insurance Plan (SEGIP) at personal expense even though the retired employee is no longer eligible to purchase coverage under SEGIP because the retired employee enrolled in medical assistance and has a disability that makes the retired employee eligible for the Supplemental Security Income program. An eligible retired employee is one who would otherwise be eligible to purchase coverage in retirement under SEGIP. This includes state employees who meet age and service requirements, as well as employees retired from employment with certain other employers, who meet age, service, and retirement plan eligibility requirements.

Section 53 [Insulin repayment account; annual transfer from health care access fund; 151.741, subd. 5] specifies that Minnesota Management and Budget must annually transfer money from the health care access fund to the insulin repayment account in the special revenue fund. By law, money in this account is appropriated to the commissioner of administration to reimburse manufacturers for insulin dispensed under an insulin safety net

program.

Section 54 [Fraud; 181.931] defines “fraud” for purposes of section 181.931, amended in section 57 to codify certain whistleblower protections for state employees.

Section 55 [Misuse; 181.931, subd. 4a] defines “misuse” for purposes of section 181.931, amended in section 57 to codify certain whistleblower protections for state employees.

Section 56 [Personal gain; 181.931, subd. 5a] defines “personal gain” for purposes of section 181.931, amended in section 57 to codify certain whistleblower protections for state employees.

Section 57 [Prohibited action; 181.932, subd. 1] codifies state whistleblower protections so that any state employee, whether in the classified or unclassified service, who reports information about state programs that the employee believes to be truthful and accurate, including but not limited to suspected fraud or misuse, receives whistleblower protection when communicating this information to a legislator, OLA, a constitutional officer, their employer, any governmental body, or law enforcement.

Section 58 [Payments to state; 240.131, subd. 7] increases the regulatory fee from one percent to two percent on the amount wagered by a resident with an authorized advance deposit wagering provider.

Section 59 [Responsible Lottery Official Definition; 349A.01] defines “responsible lottery official” to mean an officer, director, or owner of an organization, firm, partnership, or corporation that has oversight of lottery ticket sales.

Section 60 [Qualifications; 349A.06, subd. 2] clarifies how certain restrictions on who can be a lottery retailer apply to organizations, firms, partnerships, or corporations, by making restrictions applicable to an officer, director, or owner who has oversight of lottery ticket sales. Eliminates obsolete provisions.

Section 61 [Criminal history 349A.06, subd. 4] authorizes the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to conduct a Minnesota criminal history records check on an applicant to be a lottery retailer, at the request of the lottery director and after receiving a consent from the applicant their fingerprints, and required fee. The director of the lottery must obtain a Minnesota and national criminal history check for a sole proprietor or responsible lottery official who has not undergone a check within the past seven years or has had a lapse in its contract to sell lottery tickets.

Section 62 [Cancellation, Suspension, Refusal to Renew; 349A.06, subd. 11] clarifies and distinguishes sole proprietors from business organizations, in setting restrictions on who can contract to be a lottery retailer.

Section 63 [If \$750,000 sales, audited statement] increases the annual sales threshold at which a city operating a municipal liquor store must submit audited financial statements for the liquor store to the State Auditor.

Section 64 [2025 Compensation Council Revived] revives the Compensation Council that was appointed in 2025 so this same version of the council may submit judicial salary recommendations by September 1, 2026. Under current law, the council that was appointed in 2025 dissolved after it submitted its determinations for agency head and constitutional officer salaries and its recommendations for judicial salaries on March 31, 2025.

Section 65 [Open Positions Report] requires Minnesota Management and Budget to report three times during the FY 2026-2027 biennium regarding certain unfilled positions in the executive branch.

Section 66 [Integrating Application Information and a Referral Process for the Transit Assistance Program on the MNBenefits Web Portal] requires the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, in consultation with others, to integrate application information and a referral process for the Transit Assistance Program into the MNbenefits web portal. Requires Metro Transit and the Metropolitan Council to continue to process applications for the Transit Assistance Program after the information and referral process are integrated into the MNbenefits web portal.

Section 67 [Statue Replacement] authorizes the commissioner of administration to accept private funds and replace one of Minnesota's two statues in the United States Capitol. This section is effective only after the house and senate certify that the state has satisfied federal requirements for a statue replacement request (i.e., both bodies have passed a resolution, which is approved by the governor).

Section 68 [Revisor Instruction] is a conforming change related to renaming the Office of Administrative Hearings the Court of Administrative Hearings.

Section 69 [Repealer] repeals:

Subd. 1. Legislative commissions. Repeals enabling statutes for the following legislative commissions and committees: the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Sports Facilities; the Legislative Commission on Housing Affordability; the Driver and Vehicle Systems Oversight Committee; and the Legislative Covid-19 Response Commission.

Subd. 2. Employee Gainsharing; 16A.90. Repeals the statute that requires Minnesota Management and Budget to administer an employee gainsharing program.

Subd. 3. Department of Administration. Repeals **Minn. Stat. section 16B.328, subd. 2**, that requires the commissioner of administration to develop a model ordinance for local government governing outdoor lighting to reduce light pollution. Repeals **Minn. Stat. section 16C. 36** that required the commissioner of administration to make available a list of eligible contractors who can assist state agencies in using data analytics to accomplish agency reorganization along service lines; and to bring about internal reorganization of management functions to flatten organizational structures.

Subd. 4. Advisory Council on Infrastructure. Repeals the enabling statute for the Advisory Council on Infrastructure.

Subd. 5. Office of the Legislative auditor; 16B.45. Repeals certain responsibilities of the legislative auditor relating to systems analysis, information services, and computerization efforts of agencies, the University of Minnesota, and metropolitan board, agencies, and commissions.

Subd. 6. Political and campaign provisions; 211B.06 and 211B.08. Repeals **section 211B.06** that makes a person guilty of a misdemeanor for certain actions related to disseminating information in political advertising; campaign material, or a letter to an editor, that the person knows to be false or communicates to others with reckless disregard of whether it is false; and **section 211B.08** that precludes a religious, charitable, or education organization from requesting a candidate or committee contribute to an organization, subscribe for the support of a club or organization, buy tickets to entertainment, or pay for space in a publication.

Article 3 – State Personnel Management

Article 3 makes changes to statutes regarding state personnel management.

Section 1 [Equitable compensation relationships; 43A.01, subd. 3] modifies the policy of the state regarding establishing equitable compensation relationships between classes of employees based on gender domination, so that the policy of the state will be “to establish equitable compensation relationships” rather than “to attempt to establish equitable compensation relationships.” Changes the basis of comparison for determining whether total compensation is equitable to other classifications, rather than positions, in the executive branch.

Section 2 [Nonrepresented employees compensation plan; 43A.02, subd. 14] changes the name of a compensation plan from the “commissioner’s” plan to the “nonrepresented employees compensation plan.”

Section 3 [Statewide leadership; 43A.04, subd. 1] authorizes the commissioner of management and budget to issue determinations on personnel matters regarding board-appointed executive directors or leaders, if requested to do so by the appointing authority. Eliminates authorization for the commissioner of management and budget to assess and collect premiums from state agencies for the annual costs to the commissioner of administration of administering the worker’s compensation program and the costs incurred by the attorney general in investigating, administering, and defending a claim against the state for compensation that is paid out of the state compensation revolving fund.

Section 4 [Administrative procedures; 43A.04, subd. 4] makes a technical change.

Section 5 [Duration of time; 43A.04] authorizes appointing authorities to allow employees from two additional law enforcement units to donate up to eight hours of vacation to their union representative for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the office.

Section 6 [Nonrepresented employees compensation plan; 43A.05, subd. 3] is a conforming change to the name change for the commissioner's compensation plan.

Section 7 [Additional unclassified positions; 43A.08, subd. 1a] extends the authority to designate additional unclassified positions to all agencies by replacing a list of select agencies with the term "agency." "Agency" is defined for this chapter to mean "a department, commission, board, institution, or other employing entity of the civil service, in which all positions are under the same appointing authority."

Section 8 [Length of service for student workers; 43A.08, subd. 4] modifies the requirements for a student worker to be in the unclassified service.

Section 9 [Nonselection; explanation; 43A.11, subd. 9] eliminates a requirement that an appointing authority provide a reason for rejection to a candidate who has claimed veteran's preference and is not selected for a position.

Section 10 [Ranking of the applicant pool; 43A.121] eliminates a requirement that names in an applicant pool be listed in descending order based on the number of skill matches for the vacant position.

Section 11 [Temporary appointments; 43A.15, subd. 3] extends the maximum time limit for a temporary appointment from six months to one year. Eliminates required conditions under which the commissioner of management and budget is authorized to extend a temporary appointment from six months to one year.

Section 12 [Provisional appointments; 43A.15, subd. 4] eliminates a required period of time before the commissioner of management and budget can authorize a probationary appointment of a provisions appointee who has performed satisfactorily.

Section 13 [Appointments for unclassified incumbents of newly classified positions; 43A.15, subd. 7;] eliminates a condition for when the commissioner may authorize the probationary appointment of an incumbent who has passed a qualifying selection process and who has served at least one year in an unclassified position.

Section 14 [Trainee appointments; 43A.15, subd. 12] makes a technical change.

Section 15 [700-hour on-the-job demonstration experience; 43A.15, subd. 14] changes a permission to a requirement that the commissioner of management and budget must authorize probationary appointment of an applicant that demonstrates qualifications through a program for demonstrating qualifications through job performance.

Section 16 [Salary on demotion; special cases; 43A.17, subd. 5] eliminates age and health as conditions under which the commissioner of management and budget may approve a salary rate for an individual employee above the maximum for the class.

Section 17 [Donation of vacation time; 43A.181, subd. 1] eliminates certain procedural steps for a state employee to donate vacation time.

Section 18 [Vacation Donation to Sick Leave Account; 43A.1815] authorizes state employees to donate accumulated vacation at retirement, in excess of 40 hours.

Section 19 [Statewide affirmative action program; 43A.19, subd. 1] is a technical change.

Section 20 [General; 43A.23, subd. 1] makes technical changes.

Section 21 [Contract to contain statement of benefits; 43A.23, subd. 2] changes from a requirement to permission for the commissioners of commerce and health to review a summary of benefits describing hospital and medical service benefits offered to state employees.

Section 22 [Opt out; 43A.24, subd. 1a] eliminates a requirement for the commissioner of management and budget to report annually to the legislature on the number of employees choosing to opt out of state employee group insurance coverage (SEGIP), including itemized statistics with the total amount of savings for each agency from employees opting out of SEGIP.

Section 23 [Other eligible person; 43a.24, subd. 2] eliminates employees of the University of Minnesota from eligibility for state paid life insurance and hospital, medical, and dental benefits.

Section 24 [Elective eligibility; 43A.27, subd. 2] eliminates certain employees from eligibility to enroll at the person's own expense in life insurance and hospital, medical, and dental benefits. This affects employees of the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota International Center, the Minnesota Academy of Science, the Science Museum of Minnesota, the state Office of Disabled American Veterans, and the state Office of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. This section adds eligibility for self-paid benefits to employees and officers of the Center for Rural Policy and Development, and the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute, and Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union, and removes the Highway Credit Union.

Section 25 [Procedures; 43A.33, subd. 3] is a clarifying change.

Section 26 [Eligibility; 43A.346, subd. 2] modifies eligibility for a post-retirement option for a terminated state employee.

Section 27 [Duration; 43A.346, subd. 6] is a clarifying change.

Section 28 [Cooperation; state agencies; 43A.36, subd. 1] is a clarifying change.

Section 29 [Supported Work Program/Customized Employment; 43A.421] eliminates specified requirements for a supported work program for people with significant disabilities and replaces it with responsibilities to the commissioner of management and budget to establish, administer, and oversee a program providing customized employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities. Appointments are made by matching skills offered to specific tasks and projects within agencies, rather than to an existing job classification. When job coach services are necessary, the job coach is not a state employee unless the job coach holds another specified position. Authorizes the commissioner of management and budget to determine eligibility for the program.

Section 30 [Repealer] repeals:

- **Section 43A.315 [State Employee Efficient Use of Health Care Incentive Program]** eliminates a requirement for the commissioner of management and budget to create an incentive program for employees to use SEGIP benefits efficiently.
- **Section 43A.317 [Minnesota Employees Insurance Program]** eliminates an enabling statute for the Minnesota Employees Insurance Program (MEIP) program.
- **Section 43A.318 [Public Employees Group Long-Term Care Insurance Program]** eliminates the group long-term care insurance program for public employees.

Article 4 – Licensing Boards

Section 1 [Textured Hair Definition; 155A.23, subd. 22] defines “textured hair” for the cosmetology chapter.

Section 2 [Qualifications; 155A.27, subd. 2] eliminates a requirement that a person applying for a license to be a cosmetologist, hair technician, manager, or instructor, have training and experience related to all hair types and textures.

Section 3 [Training; 155A.2705, subd. 3] eliminates training requirements related to hair types and textures for obtaining a license as a hair technician.

Section 4 [Standards; 155A.30, subd. 2] requires that cosmetologist and hair technician courses, required by the Board of Cosmetologist Examiners as an education preparation prerequisite to testing and licensing, include textured hair training that consists of theoretical and clinical instruction on working with hair with various curl, coil, and wave patterns; hair strand thicknesses; and volumes.

Section 5 [Qualifications of Board Members; 326.05] lowers the practice requirement from ten years to five years and lowers the requirement for having been in responsible charge of professional work from five years to two years to be a member of the board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design (AELSLAGID).

Section 6 [Issuance; 326.10, subd. 1] eliminates the age requirement to be licensed as an

architect, engineer, land surveyor, landscape architect, geoscientist, or interior designer and adds a requirement to comply with the board's Rules of Professional Conduct.

Section 7 [Examination; 326.10, subd. 2] eliminates a requirement that one person involved in issuing licenses or certificates be licensed or certified in the relevant profession. Requires that an applicant for licensure or certification must provide evidence of passing required examinations.

Section 8 [Temporary military license; 326.10, subd. 10] eliminates the fee for a temporary license issued by the board of AELSLAGID for former and current military members. Currently the fee is \$132.

Section 9 [Cease and desist orders; 326.111] specifies procedures for serving a cease and desist order of the board of AELSLAGID and establishes when service is deemed complete.

Section 10 [Actions against applicants and licensees; 326.111, subd. 4] specifies procedures for serving orders of the board of AELSLAGID affecting licensees and applicants and establishes when service is deemed complete.

Section 11 [Procedure for temporary suspension of license or certificate; 326.111, subd. 5] specifies the procedure for serving an order of the board of AELSLAGID for temporary suspension of a license or certificate and establishes when service is complete.

Section 12 [Actions against a person with a lapsed license or certificate; 326.111, subd. 8] authorizes the board of AELSLAGID to take actions against a person with a lapsed license. The board may initiate a proceeding to suspend or revoke a license or certificate, or to impose a civil penalty.

Section 13 [Certificate Requirements Until July 1, 2030; 326A.03, subd. 6] sets an end date of June 30, 2030, for current education and experience requirements to be certified as a public accountant. The current education and experience requirements are completion of at least 150 semester or 225 quarter hours at a college or university that is fully accredited by a recognized accrediting agency listed with the U.S. Department of Education.

Section 14 [Certificate Requirements After June 30, 2030; 326A.03, subd. 6a] establishes new education and experience requirements to be certified as a public accountant. The new education and experience requirements are either: (1) completion of a master's degree at a college or university accredited by an accrediting agency listed with the U.S. Department of Education, and completion of one year of acceptable experience; or (2) completion of a bachelor's degree from a college or university accredited by an accrediting agency listed with the U.S. Department of Education, and completion of two years of acceptable experience. As under current requirements, "acceptable experience" includes any type of service or advice that involves accounting, attest, compilation, management advisory, financial advisory, tax or consulting skills, as verified by a licensee and meeting rules established by the board. Further, as under current requirements, experience as an auditor in the Office of the Legislative Auditor or the Office of the State Auditor, as verified by the board, is acceptable experience.

Section 15 [Transitional Period; 326A.03, subd. 6b] specifies that until July 1, 2030, a person can obtain certification as a public accountant by meeting either the current education and experience requirements or the new education and experience requirements.

Section 16 [Mobility; 326A.14] changes requirements for a person with specified accounting credentials to practice accountancy in the state without obtaining a Minnesota license or certificate. Eliminates a requirement for an applicant to provide proof that another state in which the person is credentialed has substantially equivalent requirements for credentialing. The current requirement is that the person hold a valid license in good standing as a certified public accountant from any state that has requirements that are substantially equivalent to Minnesota's; alternatively, if the person's license is from a state that does not have license requirements substantially equivalent to Minnesota's, the person will be presumed to have substantially equivalent qualifications if the person obtains verification that the person's qualifications are substantially equivalent. Under this section, a person who has a valid certificate, license, or permit to practice as a certified public accountant issued in another state; has a bachelor's or higher degree from an accredited postsecondary school with an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by the board by rule; and has passed the Uniform CPA examination. This section eliminates an exemption from certain education requirements for a person who passed the Uniform CPA Examination prior to January 1, 2009, and was licensed in another state. This section is effective the day after enactment.

Section 17 [Repealer] repeals the following:

Subd. 1. Board of Accountancy. Repeals **Minnesota Rules, part 1105.7900, item D**, a rule that requires a person to verify substantial equivalence of license requirements and to retain documentation supporting verification for six years.

Subd. 2. Board of Cosmetologist Examiners. Repeals **Laws 2024, ch 120, art. 3, sec. 2**, that required coursework, instruction, and experience for cosmetologists to include study of all hair types and textures, including coil, curl or wave patterns, hair strand thicknesses, and volumes of hair.

Article 5 – Business Filing Fraud and Deception Mailings

Article 5 establishes a process for complainants who believe that a business filing was made fraudulently to submit a declaration of wrongful filing with the Office of the Secretary of State (SOS). The SOS must make preliminary and final determinations regarding whether the filing subject to the complaint is fraudulent. If the SOS determines that a filing is fraudulent, the filing must be treated as if the filing never existed. If a business is registered using a Minnesota resident's name, address, or identity within the resident's consent, the business is deemed dissolved. The final order of the SOS is appealable to district court. This article also requires nongovernment entities who send solicitations to businesses to include clear statements that the solicitation is an advertisement and not from a government agency. This article provides criminal penalties and classifies data.

Section 1 [Late Renewal Penalty; 5.60] allows the secretary of state to assess a late penalty of up to \$40 when a person files for renewal or reinstatement of a business entity that was administratively dissolved due to failure to file prior to dissolution. Creates an account in the special revenue fund into which these late fees are deposited and appropriates the proceeds to the secretary of state for specified purposes. Requires the secretary of state to report annually to the legislature on the amount of revenue collected from the late fees and the outcomes achieved with the use of the money. This section is effective July 1, 2025, and applies to renewal or reinstatement applications submitted on or after that date.

Section 2 [Scope; 13.485, subd. 1] makes a technical change to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA).

Section 3 [Business fraud investigations; 13.485, subd. 7] makes a conforming change to the MGDPA.

Section 4 [Citation and definitions; 300.70] defines “complainant,” “filer,” and “office.”

Section 5 [Declaration of wrongful filing; 300.71] permits a complainant to deliver a declaration of wrongful filing to the SOS if the complainant believes that a filing made under chapters 301 to 323A was not authorized and was filed with the intent to modify the ownership, registered agent, address, or other business information or register a business using another person’s information. A declaration must include the file number for the allegedly wrong filing, the complainant’s contact information and interest in the business that is the subject of the filing, and other supporting evidence. A false material statement of fact in a declaration is a violation of section 609.48 (perjury). The SOS may reject a declaration if the declaration is incomplete, is not on a form issued by the SOS, or was delivered with intent to harass or defraud.

Section 6 [Notice; 300.72] requires that If the SOS accepts the declaration, the SOS must provide notice of the declaration and the process to resolve the allegations to the complainant and the filer. If notice to the filer is returned as undeliverable, the office may deem the filing fraudulent and issue a final order.

Section 7 [Response; 300.73] requires a filer to provide a response to the SOS within 21 calendar days of receipt of the notice.

Section 8 [Procedure when no response received; 300.74] requires the SOS to deem the filing fraudulent and issue a final order If the filer fails to respond within 21 calendar days.

Section 9 [Procedure when response received; 300.75] requires the SOS to investigate the allegations and send a preliminary determination notice to the complainant and filer if the filer responds within 21 calendar days. The SOS may request additional information from the parties. Within 10 calendar days of receipt of the notice, the nonprevailing party must respond to the notice with additional information or evidence. The prevailing party may send additional information within the same time period. If the nonprevailing party fails to respond, the preliminary determination becomes final and the SOS must issue a final order. If the

nonprevailing party responds, the office must consider the additional information, make a final determination and issue a final order.

Section 10 [Final order; 300.76] requires that the filing be treated for legal purposes as if the filing never existed if the SOS issues a final order determining that a filing is fraudulent. If a business is registered using a Minnesota resident's name, address, or identity within the resident's consent, the business is deemed dissolved. The SOS must mark the filing or business record as fraudulent or unauthorized, redact names and addresses used without authorization. If the SOS determines that a filing was not fraudulent or that there was insufficient information to make a determination, the final order must state that the office is not removing the filing from the database and provide the rationale for the determination.

Section 11 [Judicial review; 300.77] authorizes a party aggrieved by a final order to appeal the decision to district court. The aggrieved party must serve the adverse party and the SOS in person or by mail. The court administrator must not charge a filing fee for an appeal filed under this section. The SOS may elect to be a party to the judicial proceedings. The court may consider the matter in or out of chambers. A party aggrieved by the district court's decision may appeal the matter in the same manner as any other civil case.

Section 12 [Data practices; 300.78] classifies data submitted by the complainant or filer as private data on individuals or nonpublic data. A final order is public, except that the complainant or filer's personal contact information is private data on individuals. The unredacted version of a filing deemed fraudulent is nonpublic data or private data on individuals, but the redacted version is public data. The SOS may communicate data of any classification to aid an investigation or if required to do so pursuant to a court order or law.

Section 13 [Prohibition of deceptive business mailings; 300.80] specifies that, for purposes of this section, a solicitation is a communication sent by a nongovernment entity that notifies the business of an operating requirement or offers a service that relates to filing documents or reporting information to the SOS. Solicitations sent to businesses must include clear statements that the solicitation is an advertisement and not from a government agency and must provide the name and physical address of the entity sending the solicitation. A solicitation must not imply that the solicitation is an official government notice, incorporate the state seal or other official branding of the state, or imply a legal duty to act on the solicitation. A violation of this section is a misdemeanor and a violation of the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act (UDTPA). The UDTPA authorizes injunctive relief and attorney fee awards to the prevailing party. This section is effective August 1, 2025, and applies to audits performed for 2026 and thereafter.

Section 14 [Acts constituting; 609.48, subd. 1] makes a conforming change to the criminal code.

Section 15 [Rulemaking] authorizes the SOS to adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this act, and no time limit applies to the rulemaking authority. This section is effective the day after enactment.

Section 16 [Effective date] makes sections 2 to 12 and 14 effective the day after enactment for filings made on or after January 1, 2026.

Article 6 - Local Government Policy

Sections 1 and 2 [13D.02] amend the open meeting law to allow members of a public body to participate remotely in a meeting governed by the open meeting laws from a location that is not open and accessible to the public. Under current law, a member may only participate from a nonpublic location three times a year, and only if the member is serving in the military or has personal or family medical reasons for not being in a public place.

Section 3 [117.036] doubles the maximum reimbursement amounts allowed under current law for an appraisal of property conducted for a property owner whose property is to be acquired through eminent domain.

Section 4 [222.37] provides that public water district, sewer district, or combination water and sewer districts may install water and sewer lines within public road right-of-way.

Section 5 [331A.10] provides that when a local subdivision's sole qualified newspaper ceases publication, the political subdivision must post notices on its website and on the Minnesota Newspaper Association's statewide public notice website, until another qualified newspaper can be identified.

Section 6 [367.36] raises the revenue threshold above for towns that combine the offices of clerk and treasurer are required to perform audits annually, rather than at least once every five years. The bill sets the threshold to \$1,000,000, to be adjusted annually for inflation. The previous threshold was set at \$150,000 in 2005, and is annually adjusted for inflation.

Sections 7 [383A.151], subdivision 1 creates the Ramsey County Economic Development Authority, which has the powers of an economic development authority under existing state law, except for the power to tax, the powers of a housing and redevelopment authority, and the powers of a city. For purposes of applying the chapter of law that authorizes the creation of economic development authorities to this circumstance, the county of Ramsey has the powers and duties of a city, the county board has the powers and duties of the governing body, the chair of the county board has the powers of the mayor, and the area of operation is the territorial boundaries of the county. The section of law establishing the powers of a county economic development authority or housing redevelopment authority does not apply to Ramsey, except for the provision that allows a city to elect to participate or withdraw participation by resolution.

Subdivision 2 provides that the Ramsey County Economic Authority consists of seven commissioners, and the Ramsey County board shall appoint the commissioners and fill vacancies. The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners also constitutes the Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority. The board may appoint the sitting commissioners of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority as commissioners

of the Economic Development Authority. The result would be that the boards consist of the same people.

Section 8 [383A.152] expands the Ramsey County Housing and Development Authority's powers to include the Ramsey County Economic Authority's powers under section 4. These sections are effective after approval by the governing body of Ramsey County and the filing of the approval with the secretary of state, which is required for all special laws.

Section 9 [383C.035] amends the law governing Saint Louis County's unclassified civil service to permit the county to have more than two deputy administrators.

Section 10 [412.02, subd. 3] raises the annual audit revenue threshold for cities that operate under the standard plan of government and combine the offices of clerk and treasurer. The bill sets the threshold for an annual audit to \$1,000,000, to be adjusted annually for inflation. The previous threshold was set at \$150,000 in 2005, and is annually adjusted for inflation.

Section 11 [412.341] provides statutory cities the option of establishing a public utilities commission with three, five, or seven members with staggered terms.

Section 12 [412.341] authorizes the number of statutory city public utility commission members to be increased or decreased by ordinance, but subject to a reverse referendum.

Section 13 [412.591, subd. 3] raises the annual audit revenue threshold for cities that operate under Optional Plan A and combines the offices of clerk and treasurer, and for special districts under section 6.756. The bill sets the threshold to \$1,000,000, to be adjusted annually for inflation. The previous threshold was set at \$150,000 in 2005, and is annually adjusted for inflation.

Section 14 [471.3458] permits cities, towns, and fire departments to allow certain individuals who volunteer to provide emergency services to purchase tires for their personal vehicles under the contract that the city, town, or fire department uses to purchase vehicle tires. The volunteer may purchase up to four new tires for one personal vehicle every three years, and must pay for the tires, including taxes and fees.

Section 15 [471.9994] requires cities and towns to provide landlords with a link to the electronic version of the attorney general's landlord-tenant guide upon issuance or renewal of a rental license, or registration or certificate of occupancy.

Section 16 [477A.017, subd. 3] requires towns and special districts to provide financial reports to the state auditor in order to receive state aid. Preexisting law extended only to cities.

Sections 17 – 22 reduce the number of board members of a hospital district in Swift County from nine to 12 voting members to six voting members. Also authorizes the hospital district to change the number of board members through adoption and amendment of bylaws. Technical changes are made throughout to correct an erroneous reference to the provision governing the bylaws of the hospital district board.

Section 23 repeals laws that govern Saint Louis County. Section 383C.07 provides that a lay person appointed by the Saint Louis County Board to a board or commission has a three-year term. Section 383C.74, subdivisions 1 to 4, permits the Saint Louis County Board to make a yearly appropriation of up to \$2,500 to a historical society and provide for how the appropriation would be handled and spent.

Section 24 provides effective dates for the legislation.

Article 7 – Campaign Finance Policy

Section 1 [5.51; Expenses of Secretary of State-Elect] establishes a \$25,000 transfer from the general fund contingent account to provide for the establishment of transition offices and payment expenses of the secretary of state-elect.

Section 2 [6.93; Expenses of State Auditor-Elect] establishes a \$25,000 transfer from the general fund contingent account to provide for the establishment of transition offices and payment expenses of the state auditor-elect.

Section 3 [8.40; Expenses of Attorney General-Elect] establishes a \$35,000 transfer from the general fund contingent account to provide for the establishment of transition offices and payment expenses of the attorney-elect.

Section 4 [10A.01, subd. 16c; Expert witness] provides a definition of “expert witness” for purposes of chapter 10A. This section is effective June 1, 2025.

Section 5 [10A.01, subd. 21; Lobbyist] amends the definition of lobbyist for purposes of chapter 10A. The exemptions from lobbying for expert witnesses and nonelected local officials or employees of political subdivisions are revised. Certain finance professionals working with a registered lobbyist and principal to the extent they are participating in conduit financing through a political subdivision are excluded from the definition of lobbyist. This section is effective June 1, 2025.

Section 6 [10A.01, subd. 22; Local official] amends the definition of “local official” for purposes of chapter 10A by breaking the existing definition into clauses and adding clarifying language. This section is effective June 1, 2025.

Section 7 [10A.01, subd. 26; Noncampaign disbursement] amends the definition of “noncampaign disbursement” to include transition expenses and inaugural event expenses as defined in a later section. This section is effective June 1, 2025.

Section 8 [10A.01, subd. 26b; Official action of a political subdivision] amends the definition of “official action of a political subdivision” for purposes of chapter 10A by breaking the existing definition into clauses and adding clarifying language. This section is effective June 1, 2025.

Section 14 [10A.04, subd. 4; Content] requires a lobbyist to report each expert witness that the lobbyist requested to communicate with public or local officials and each finance professional who participated in conduit financing. The designated lobbyist must report this information if the expert witness or finance professional is requested to communicate by the principal or association that the lobbyist represents. This section is effective June 1, 2025.

Section 10 [10A.06; Contingent fees prohibited] specifies that the section on contingent fees does not apply to an attorney or finance professional to the extent that person is participating in conduit financing through a political subdivision. This section is effective June 1, 2025.

Section 11 [10A.066; Handbook for Lobbying] requires the Board to publish on the Board's website a handbook for lobbying written in plain language. This section is effective the day following final enactment and the first handbook must be published by January 15, 2026.

Section 12 [10A.09, subd. 1; Time for filing] amends the timeline for filing the statement of economic interest for candidates so that the deadline for filing is 14 days after the end of the filing period, instead of 14 days after the affidavit of candidacy is filed.

Section 13 [10A.174; Inaugural event and transition expenses] provides that a candidate or the candidate's principal campaign committee must not solicit or accept any contributions for or make any expenditures for inaugural event expenses or transition expenses except through the candidate's principal campaign committee or as provided through the statutes providing state resources for transition funds.

Section 15 [10A.52; Major Decision of nonelected officials] codifies a Board Rule and amends the rule by adding the language in subdivision 1, paragraph (b). This section provides guidance on what constitutes a major decision of nonelected local officials regarding the expenditure of public money. This section is effective June 1, 2025.

Section 16 [211A.02, subd. 1; When and where filed by committees or candidates] specifies that certain local candidate reports are only required in a year in which the candidate is on the ballot (and not every year). Deletes unnecessary language.

Section 17 [211A.02, subd. 2; Information required] requires a local candidate or committee report to include an email address. If the person responsible for filing the report does not have an email address, the person must include an attestation to that effect.

Section 18 [211B.065; Distribution of absentee ballot applications and sample ballots] requires a person or entity, except a unit of government or an election official, that mails absentee ballot applications or sample ballots to include specified statements and information that must be visible at the time the mailing is opened and on the envelope. If an absentee ballot application is included, the space to indicate the applicant's preference to join the permanent absentee voter list must be left blank. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Section 19 [211B.32, subd. 4; Proof of claim] strikes a cross-reference to a statute being repealed.

Section 20 [211B.35, subd. 2; Disposition of claim] strikes a cross-reference to a statute being repealed.

Section 21 [383B.041, subd. 5; Economic interest disclosure; Special School District No. 1] specifies that candidates for school board in Special School District No. 1 must file a statement of economic interest within 14 days of the end of the candidate filing period, instead of within 14 days of filing for office.

Section 22 [Rulemaking] requires the Board to amend one of its rules to conform to the provisions in this article related to transition expenses. The Board may use the good cause exemption.

Section 23 [Effective date] provides that this section is effective January 1, 2026, unless otherwise provided.

Article 8 – Election Policy

Section 1 [201.054, subd. 1; Registration] clarifies that an individual may update voter registration at the same time a person may register to vote.

Section 2 [201.054, subd. 2; Prohibition; penalty] prohibits an individual from intentionally misrepresenting the individual's identity when updating a registration.

Section 3 [201.056; Signature of registered voters; marks allowed] extends the current law on signatures by registered voters to voters who are updating registration.

Section 4 [201.061, subd. 1; Prior to election day] allows voters to update voter registration prior to election day by submitting a voter registration application in the same manner as a voter who is registering to vote.

Section 5 [201.061, subd. 3; Election day registration] prohibits an election judge from signing a proof of residence oath vouching for any individual in the precinct where the election judge is working unless the election judge personally knows the individual is a resident of the precinct. Strikes the requirement for a residential facility operator to prepare a list of employee names to be certified to the county auditor to be used for vouching for residential facility residents. Instead requires employees to provide proof that they are employed by and working in the residential facility before vouching for a resident. Adds references to updating voter registration. Requires the secretary of state to publish guidance for residential facilities and residential facility employees on the vouching process. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Section 6 [201.061, subd. 3a; Additional proofs of residence permitted for students] requires an updated residential housing list to be certified to the county auditor no later than

35 days before each election, instead of 20 days. Specifies that additional proof of residence for students must be allowed during the 18 days before an election and on election day. This section is effective January 1, 2026, and applies to elections held on or after February 6, 2026.

Section 7 [201.061, subd. 4; Registration by election judges; procedures] provides that updates to registration on election day are handled by election judges in the same manner as registrations. Updates terminology.

Section 8 [201.061, subd. 5; Unregistered voters; penalty] strikes a reference to precincts where voter registration is not required.

Section 9 [201.061, subd. 7; Record of attempted registrations] requires election judges to attempt to keep a record of the number of individuals who attempt to update a voter registration on election day but who cannot provide proof of residence.

Section 10 [201.071, subd. 1; Form] strikes a requirement that the voter registration application include a box to indicate a voter's preference to join the permanent absentee voter list. This section is effective July 1, 2025, except that it is effective January 1, 2026, for the secretary of state's online voter registration application.

Section 11 [201.071, subd. 4; Change of registration] requires a county auditor who receives notice of an update of a registration record to check the statewide voter registration system to determine whether that individual voted in more than one precinct in the most recent election.

Section 12 [201.091, subd. 5; Copy of list to registered voter] requires the secretary state and county auditors to provide the public information list within 5 business days of receiving a complete request, instead of the 10 days required by current law. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Section 13 [201.091, subd. 8; Registration places] allows a person with a disability to be assisted by a designated individual when updating a voter registration. Rewrites a sentence for clarity and strikes a reference to preregistration.

Section 14 [201.121, subd. 1; Entry of registration information] makes a conforming change to require county auditors to update information in the statewide voter information system.

Section 15 [201.121, subd. 3; Postelection sampling] requires postelection sampling to include voters who updated voter registration information on election day.

Section 16 [201.13, subd. 3; Use of change of address system] makes conforming changes to refer to making updates (instead of changes).

Section 17 [201.14; Court administrator of district court; report changes of name] makes conforming changes to refer to the county auditor updating voter's records with information

from name change reports, instead of changing the record. Updates terminology for consistency.

Section 18 [201.161, subd. 4; Department of Human Services] allows individuals to update voter registrations as part of applications with the Department of Human Services.

Section 19 [201.161, subd. 5; Other agencies and units of government] prohibits updating using the automatic voter registration process to update voter registration with an agency until the agency has been approved to use the automatic registration process.

Section 20 [201.161, subd. 8; Effective date of registration] provides that the effective date for the voter registration or the update to a voter registration through automatic voter registration is the date the county auditor processes the application. Makes conforming changes relating to updating voter registration.

Section 21 [201.162; Duties of state agencies] requires state agencies and other entities to provide assistance for updating voter registration. Makes conforming changes relating to updating voter registration. Updates terminology for consistency.

Section 22 [201.225, subd. 2; Technology requirements] allows an electronic roster to contain preregistered voter data on voters for multiple precincts in the case of a combined polling place. Replaces references to preregistered voters with references to registered voters. Allows electronic rosters to be used for updating voter registration. This section is effective June 1, 2025.

Section 23 [201.225, subd. 5; Election day] allows precincts to use electronic rosters for updating voter registration. Replaces references to preregistered voters with references to registered voters.

Section 24 [201.275; Investigations; prosecutions] provides where a matter relates to a voter registration submitted electronically, alleged violations may be investigated and prosecuted in the county where the individual updated a voter registration.

Section 25 [203B.04, subd. 1; Application procedures] requires applicants using the online absentee application to provide both a driver's license number or state ID card number and the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number. If an applicant does not possess both types of documents, the applicant must include the number for one type of document and must affirmatively certify that the applicant does not possess the other type of document. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Section 26 [203B.04, subd. 4; Registration at time of application; updating registration] allows an absentee voter who needs to update their registration to do so by including a completed voter registration application with their absentee ballot.

Section 27 [206B.06, subd. 4; Registration check] provides that if an absentee voter needs to update the voter's registration, the county auditor, municipal clerk, or election judge must

include a voter registration application among the election materials provided to the applicant.

Section 28 [203B.07, subd. 1; Delivery of envelopes, directions] provides that when a voter registration application is sent to an absentee voter applicant, the directions must also include instructions for updating the voter's registration.

Section 29 [203B.07, subd. 3; Eligibility certificate] requires the eligibility certificate to be modified to reference updates to voter registration.

Section 30 [203B.08, subd. 1; Marking and return by voter] updates terminology regarding absentee voting envelopes to refer to the proper type of envelope. Absentee ballots delivered in person must be returned by 5 p.m. on election day.

Section 31 [203B.08, subd. 3; Procedures on receipt of ballots] updates terminology regarding absentee voting envelopes to refer to the proper type of envelope.

Section 32 [203B.081, subd. 4; Temporary locations] requires the county auditor and secretary of state to post notice of absentee polling places on their respective websites. The notices must include the polling place's address and the dates and times the polling place will be open for voting. Allows a federally recognized Indian Tribe with off-reservation Tribal lands to request an additional polling place to be on that land. This section is effective September 1, 2025.

Section 33 [203B.121, subd. 4; Opening of envelopes] amends the handling of absentee ballot signature envelopes. This requires counting, cross-checking, and accounting for empty signature and ballot envelopes at various steps in the process. Discrepancies in the count must be noted in the ballot board incident log and reported to the official responsible for the ballot board. All envelopes must be retained for 48 hours after the deadline for bringing an election contest or, if a contest is filed, 48 hours after completion of the contest and any related appeals, whichever is later.

Section 34 [203B.121, subd. 5; Storage and counting of absentee ballots] requires two members of the ballot board to make sure that the number of absentee ballots removed from the ballot box is equal to the number of absentee ballots from the tally of absentee ballots from the tally of ballots that were inserted into the ballot box that day. Requires absentee vote totals to be added to the vote totals on summary statements for the appropriate precinct in all elections. Makes technical and conforming changes.

Section 35 [203B.17, subd. 3; Website security] strikes a reference to report due dates that have already passed.

Section 36 [203B.23, subd. 2; Duties] specifies that if a municipality and county agree that the county's ballot board retains the responsibility for UOCAVA ballots, the county ballot board opens, counts, and retains the ballots. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 37 [203B.29, subd. 1; Emergency response providers] specifies that the absentee ballot application deadlines in an earlier section do not apply to emergency response providers requesting absentee ballot applications to be electronically transmitted.

Section 38 [203B.29, subd. 3; Reasonable accommodation for voter with disability] specifies that the absentee ballot application deadlines in an earlier section do not apply to voters with a disability requesting absentee ballot applications to be electronically transmitted.

Section 39 [203B.30, subd. 2; Voting procedure] provides that a voter whose name or address has changed must update the voter's registration at the time of early voting. This section is effective upon the revisor of statute's receipt of the early voting certification and applies to elections held on or after the 85th day after the revisor receives the certification.

Section 40 [203B.30, subd. 3; Processing of ballots] requires the early voting official to take certain actions to remove, secure, and document ballots each day during the early voting period. This section is effective upon the revisor of statute's receipt of the early voting certification and applies to elections held on or after the 85th day after the revisor receives the certification.

Section 41 [204B.06, subd. 1; Form of affidavit] requires an affidavit of candidacy to include a phonetic spelling or pronunciation of the candidate's name or a certification that the candidate will use the applicable technology's default pronunciation.

Section 42 [204B.06, subd. 1b; Address, electronic mail address, and telephone number] specifies that candidates for judicial office, county attorney, and county sheriff are not required to include the candidate's address of residence on the affidavit of candidacy. Candidates for these offices must include a phone number and email address. If a bill is used as proof of residence for office, the bill must be recent. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 43 [204B.07, subd. 2; Petitions for presidential electors and alternates] specifies that the section, as opposed to the subdivision, does not apply to candidates for presidential elector nominated by major political parties. Requires each nominated candidate to submit a petition and a signed, notarize affidavit of candidacy for president or vice president that includes information about the candidate and a declaration that the candidate will follow applicable election and campaign finance laws.

Section 44 [204B.09, subd. 1a; Absent candidates] requires a candidate who is absent during the filing period to include proof of residence with the affidavit of candidacy. The copy of the proof of residence is private data on individuals. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 45 [204B.09, subd. 2; Other elections] requires proof of residence filed with affidavits of candidacy be filed during the filing period. Copies of proof of residence submitted by mail are private data on individuals. Requires the official receiving the filing to notify the official responsible for preparing ballots of the names of the candidates placed on the ballots,

any changes to candidates, or any other information necessary to prepare the ballot. The notification must be made within one business day or immediately following the close of the filing period, unless the clerk and official agree to an alternative timeline. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 46 [204B.09, subd. 3; Write-in candidates] amends the deadline for a candidate for city, county, state, or federal office to have write-in votes counted. The deadline is moved from 7 days before the election to 19 days before the election. to file a request not more than 84 days before the primary and no later than the 19th day before the general election; current law sets the deadline at the 7th day before the general election. This section is effective on January 1, 2026.

Section 47 [204B.14, subd. 2; Separate precincts; combined polling place] allows election officials responsible for electronic rosters to combine precinct data files as necessary to be loaded onto electronic rosters for combined polling places. Requires the secretary of state and county auditor to provide guidance to the election judges serving in a combined polling place on the procedures to be used to ensure each voter is provided the correct ballot for the voter's precinct. Requires a map showing the precincts served by the combined polling place and a notice that multiple ballot styles are used to be prominently displayed near the entrance to a combined polling place. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Section 48 [204B.14, subd. 4a; Municipal boundary adjustment procedure] changes the deadline for when a municipal boundary adjustment will take effect for an election from 21 days before an election to 46 days before an election. This prevents the change from taking place in the middle of the absentee voting period.

Section 49 [204B.16; Notice to voters] requires a notice to be posted in a conspicuous place if a polling place is changed. The notice must be posted at the closed polling place and must include the location of the new polling place. If a precinct is required to provide election materials in languages other than English, the sign must also be in the additional languages. The notice must be posted at each election until the next general presidential election or until redistricting has occurred. The secretary of state must prepare a sample notice.

Section 50 [204B.16; Prohibited locations] prohibits polling places from being designated in any location where cannabis products are served or sold or in any adjoining room.

Section 51 [204B.175, subd. 3; Notice] amends the statute related to notices that must be posted when a polling-place changes on election day due to an emergency. If a precinct is required to provide election materials in languages other than English, the sign must also be in the additional languages.

Section 52 [204B.182; Chain of custody plans] requires the county auditor to develop a county elections chain of custody plan for elections in the county. The plan must account for both physical and cyber security of elections-related materials. A municipal clerk, school district clerk, or special district clerk must either use the county plan or create a local chain of custody plan for use in local elections not held in conjunction with federal, state, or county

elections. This section is effective the day following final enactment and county auditors must file a plan with the secretary of state by June 1, 2026.

Section 53 [204B.19, subd. 5; Party balance requirements] requires election judge party balance at any location where ballots are being counted unless exempted by laws related to standalone local elections. Each major political party must be represented by at least one election judge in each precinct.

Section 54 [204B.24; Election judges; oath] adds a statement to the election judge oath that the judge will not share information about voting that the judge knows to be materially false and that the judge will not intentionally hinder, interfere with, or prevent a person from voting, registering to vote, or aiding another person in voting. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Section 55 [204B.25, subd. 1; Duties of county auditor] requires election judge training to be consistent with the training programs established by the secretary of state.

Section 56 [204B.275; Election reporting system] requires the secretary of state to maintain an election reporting system. Assigns responsibilities and timelines for entering candidate names into the system. Requires testing prior to elections. Requires county auditor to report unofficial election results in the system for federal and state elections. Specifies that the results in the system are unofficial and election results are not official until after the canvassing board certifies the result of the election. This section is effective on June 1, 2025.

Section 57 [204B.28, subd. 2; Election supplies; duties of county auditors and clerks] allows municipal clerks to secure certain election supplies from the county auditor until the day before the election, as opposed to of four days before the election in current law. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 58 [204B.44; Errors and omissions; remedy] provides that service on a candidate may be accomplished by an email sent to the address the candidate provided on the affidavit of candidacy. Provides a process for all parties to agree on a remedy to correct an error, omission, or wrongful act without a court order. Provides for a candidate who does not prevail in a court proceeding to pay the costs and disbursements for the prevailing party in certain circumstances. An official may correct an official ballot without a court order if the ballot is not in compliance with laws and rules on ballot format. This section is effective on June 1, 2025.

Section 59 [204B.45, subd. 2; Procedure; voting prior to election day] requires jurisdictions that conduct elections by mail to send ballots no later than 28 days before any election, rather than the current 14 days. This section is effective November 15, 2025, for elections held on or after January 1, 2026.

Section 60 [204C.05, subd. 2; Voters in line at closing] adds a reference to individuals in line to update voter registration in the section on voters in line at the close of voting. Rewrites a sentence for clarity.

Section 61 [204C.06, subd. 1; Persons allowed near polling place] allows persons updating their registration to be near a polling place. Rewrites a sentence for clarity.

Section 62 [204C.06, subd. 2; Individuals allowed in polling place; identification] allows a voter who is updating their registration to be in a polling place while updating registration or voting. Updates terminology.

Section 63 [204C.06, subd. 6; Peace officers] adds a reference to updating registration in the section on when peace officers may be summoned to restore the peace.

Section 64 [204C.08, subd. 1d; Voter's bill of rights] adds a reference to updating voter registration on election day. Strikes a reference to a prohibition on a candidate from assisting voters, consistent with a consent decree entered into in *Dai Thao et al. v. Minnesota Secretary of State*, No. 62-CV-20-1044 (Minn. Dist. Ct. 2020). This section is effective the day following final enactment, except that the provision on updating voter registration is effective on January 1, 2026.

Section 65 [204C.09, subd. 1; Counting and initialing] strikes the requirement that election judges initial the backs of ballots, which allows judges to initial the ballot on either side. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 66 [204C.10; Polling place roster; voter signature certificate; voter receipt] adds a reference to the location of residence in the polling place roster statement. This section is effective September 1, 2025.

Section 67 [204C.15, subd. 2; Outside the polling place] specifies that an individual who is updating a voter registration is allowed to enter a polling place. Allows election judges of different parties to assist a voter in updating a voter registration.

Section 68 [204C.15, subd. 3; Voting lines] specifies that upon request of the voter, two election judges will assist a voter with a disability. Allows the election judges to assist with updating the voter's registration. Rewrites a sentence for clarity.

Section 69 [204C.24, subd. 1; Information requirements] requires precinct summary statements to include the number of voters updating registrations in that precinct.

Section 70 [204C.32, subd. 1; County canvass] provides that the county canvassing report after the state primary must include the number of individuals who updated voter registration. Rewrites a sentence for clarity.

Section 71 [204C.33, subd. 1; County canvass] the county canvassing report after the state general election must include the number of individuals who updated voter registration. Rewrites a sentence for clarity.

Section 72 [204D.19, subd. 1; Vacancy filled at general election] provides that for a special legislative election that is filled at a general election, the filing period is concurrent with the filing period for the general election. If that is not possible, the filing period must be a

minimum of five days and a maximum of ten days, excluding holidays. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 73 [204D.19, subd. 2; Special election when legislature will be in session]

provides that for a special legislative election when the legislature will be in session, the filing period for the vacancy must be a minimum of three days, excluding holidays. Shortens the prohibited blackout period for holding special elections around holidays from four days to two days. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 74 [204D.19, subd. 3; Special election at other times] provides that for a special legislative election that is held at other times, the filing period must be a minimum of five days and a maximum of ten days, excluding holidays. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 75 [204D.195; Date of special election; certain times prohibited] shortens the prohibited blackout period for holding special elections around holidays from four days to two days before and after a holiday. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 76 [205.13, subd. 1; Affidavit of candidacy] requires the municipal clerk to notify the official responsible for preparing ballots of the names of the candidates placed on the ballots, any changes to candidates, or any other information necessary to prepare the ballot. The notification must be made within one business day or immediately following the close of the filing period, unless the clerk and official agree to an alternative timeline. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 77 [205A.01, subd. 1; Affidavit of candidacy] requires the school district clerk to notify the official responsible for preparing ballots of the names of the candidates placed on the ballots, any changes to candidates, or any other information necessary to prepare the ballot. The notification must be made within one business day or immediately following the close of the filing period, unless the clerk and official agree to an alternative timeline. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 78 [205.13, subd. 1a; Filing period] changes the filing period for municipal elections to be no more than 112 days or less than 98 days before the municipal general election held in November. The timeline in current law is no more than 98 days or less than 84 days. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Section 79 [205A.06, subd. 1a; Filing period] changes the filing period for school district elections to be no more than 112 days or less than 98 days before the school general election held in November. The timeline in current law is no more than 98 days or less than 84 days. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Section 80 [205A.11, subd. 2; Combined polling place] provides that if a municipality conducts elections by mail, the school board may designate a polling place not used by the municipality.

Section 81 [206.83; Testing of Voting Systems] requires public notice of the time and place of the testing of voting systems to be given at least five days in advance, instead of the two days required by current law. Strikes a reference to “punched” ballots. Specifies that it applies to each question in the contest. This section is effective on September 1, 2025.

Section 82 [206.845, subd. 1; Prohibited connections] requires a password used to access any ballot recording or tabulating system to be kept in a safe and secure place in the precinct so that it is not accessible to or visible by the public.

Section 83 [211B.20, subd. 2; Exceptions] specifies access to multiunit dwellings by candidates must be permitted, at a minimum, from 9 am to 9 pm on any day.

Section 84 [211B.20, subd. 3; Notice to residents] encourages owners, managers, or operators of multiple unit dwellings to notify residents of the days on which a candidate has provided notice of an intent to be present.

Section 85 [368.47; Towns may be dissolved] strikes obsolete references to separate ballots and separate ballot boxes.

Section 86 [375.20; Ballot questions] changes the timeline for calling a special county election. The election may be held within 84 days after a resolution is adopted, instead of within 74 days under current law.

Section 87 [414.09, subd. 3; Elections of municipal officers] requires the election of municipal officers held after incorporation or consolidation to be held on a uniform election date. Requires ballots to follow the ballot formatting laws. Requires candidates to file affidavits of candidacy in the same manner as other municipal candidates. This section is effective June 1, 2025.

Section 88 [447.32, subd. 4; Candidates; ballots; certifying election] changes the filing period for hospital board elections to be no more than 112 days or less than 98 days before the general election held in November. The timeline in current law is no more than 98 days or less than 84 days. Provides that a hospital district board must act as a canvassing board and between the 3rd and 14th day after an election, canvass the returns and declare the candidate duly elected who received the highest number of votes for hospital district office and the results of any ballot questions. The changes related to the filing period are effective January 1, 2026.

Section 89 [Transition to new voter registration applications; absentee ballot applications] provides that a completed voter registration application is not deficient for purposes of registering if the application was printed or provided to the voter prior to July 1, 2025. On or after July 1, 2025, an election official must not print or copy a blank voter registration application that does not include the modification required by section 10, relating to the permanent absentee voter list.

Section 90 [Repealer] repeals **Minn. Stat. 204B.25, subd. 3**, which relates to the number of trained election judges in each precinct. Repeals **Minn. Stat. 206.57, subd. 5b**, which is a

township voting equipment study that was completed in 2016. Repeals **Minn. Stat. 206.95**, which is the voting equipment grant account.

Section 91 [Effective date] provides that this article is effective July 1, 2025, unless otherwise provided.



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