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State of Minnesota

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 4803

03/11/2024 Authored by Olson, B.; Urdahl; Knudsen; Harder; Davids and others
05/18/2024 The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State and Local Government Finance and Policy Pursuant to Rule 4.31, returned to the House from the Committee on State and Local Government Finance and Policy Read for the Second Time and placed on the General Register

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to state government; requiring the secretary of state to place questions on
1.3 the 2024 state general election ballot related to approval of the state flag and state
1.4 seal designs adopted by the State Emblems Redesign Commission; amending
1.5 Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 1.135, subdivisions 3a, 6; Laws
1.6 2023, chapter 62, article 2, sections 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 133, subdivision 1.

1.7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 1.135, subdivision 3a, is amended
1.9 to read:

1.10 Subd. 3a. Official seal; May 11, 2024 2025, and thereafter. The Great Seal of the State
1.11 of Minnesota is the design as certified in the report of the State Emblems Redesign
1.12 Commission, as established by Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 2, section 118.

1.13 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 1.135, subdivision 6, is amended to
1.14 read:

1.15 Subd. 6. State's duties. State agencies and departments using the seal, its impression,
1.16 or its likeness shall make every effort to bring any seal, impression, or likeness currently
1.17 fixed to a permanent object into accordance with this section and section 4.04. Expendable
1.18 material to which the seal in effect prior to May 11, 2024 2025, or any impression, scene,
1.19 or likeness of that seal is currently affixed may be used until the supply is exhausted or until
1.20 January 1, 2025 2026, whichever occurs first. All unused dies and engravings of the Great
1.21 Seal shall be given to the Minnesota Historical Society, along with all historical information
1.22 available about the seal, to be retained in the society's permanent collection.

2.1 Sec. 3. Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 2, section 1, the effective date, is amended to read:

2.2 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective May 11, ~~2024~~ 2025, if the ballot question  
2.3 related to adoption of the state seal, as required by this act, is approved.

2.4 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective retroactive to July 1, 2023.

2.5 Sec. 4. Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 2, section 2, the effective date, is amended to read:

2.6 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective May 11, ~~2024~~ 2025, if the ballot question  
2.7 related to adoption of the state seal, as required by this act, is approved.

2.8 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective retroactive to July 1, 2023.

2.9 Sec. 5. Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 2, section 3, the effective date, is amended to read:

2.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective May 11, ~~2024~~ 2025, if the ballot question  
2.11 related to adoption of the state seal, as required by this act, is approved.

2.12 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective retroactive to July 1, 2023.

2.13 Sec. 6. Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 2, section 4, the effective date, is amended to read:

2.14 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective May 11, ~~2024~~ 2025, if the ballot question  
2.15 related to adoption of the state seal, as required by this act, is approved.

2.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective retroactive to July 1, 2023.

2.17 Sec. 7. Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 2, section 5, the effective date, is amended to read:

2.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective May 11, ~~2024~~ 2025, if the ballot question  
2.19 related to adoption of the state flag, as required by this act, is approved.

2.20 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective retroactive to July 1, 2023.

2.21 Sec. 8. Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 2, section 133, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

2.22 Subdivision 1. **State emblems redesign.** Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 1.135,  
2.23 subdivisions 3 and 5; ~~and 1.141, subdivisions 3, 4, and 6,~~ are repealed, effective May 11,  
2.24 ~~2024~~ 2025, if the ballot question related to adoption of the state seal, as required by this act,  
2.25 is approved; and Minnesota Statutes, sections 1.141, subdivisions 3, 4, and 6, are repealed  
2.26 effective May 11, 2025, if the ballot question related to adoption of the state flag, as required  
2.27 by this act, is approved.

2.28 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective retroactive to July 1, 2023.

3.1 **Sec. 9. REFERENDUM ON APPROVAL OF STATE FLAG AND STATE SEAL.**

3.2 (a) The secretary of state must place separate questions on the ballot at the 2024 state  
3.3 general election related to final adoption of the state flag and state seal designs approved  
3.4 by the State Emblems Redesign Commission. Except as provided in this section, the questions  
3.5 must be placed on the ballot and the results of the election canvassed in the same manner  
3.6 as provided by law for a proposed state constitutional amendment. The questions submitted  
3.7 must be:

3.8 (1) "Shall the state flag design approved by the State Emblems Redesign Commission  
3.9 be adopted as the official flag of the state of Minnesota, effective May 11, 2025?

3.10 Yes .....

3.11 No ..... "; and

3.12 (2) "Shall the state seal design approved by the State Emblems Redesign Commission  
3.13 be adopted as the official Great Seal of the State of Minnesota, effective May 11, 2025?

3.14 Yes .....

3.15 No ..... "

3.16 (b) The secretary of state must provide each county auditor or municipal clerk with  
3.17 sufficient copies of a reproduction of the designs for the state flag and state seal, printed in  
3.18 color, so that examples can be made available for public inspection in each polling place.  
3.19 The county auditor or municipal clerk must ensure that these reproductions are placed in a  
3.20 conspicuous location in the polling place so that voters may view them prior to casting a  
3.21 ballot.

3.22 (c) If the majority of voters voting at the election vote yes on a question, the question  
3.23 is approved and the design referenced in that question is finally adopted as the official flag  
3.24 or official seal of the state of Minnesota, as applicable.