

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETIETH SESSION

S.F. No. 2961

(SENATE AUTHORS: OSMEK and Hall)

DATE
03/05/2018

D-PG
6269

OFFICIAL STATUS
Introduction and first reading
Referred to State Government Finance and Policy and Elections

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, article V, section 5;
1.3 changing the process for filling a vacancy in the office of lieutenant governor.
1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED.**

1.6 An amendment to the Minnesota Constitution is proposed to the people. If the amendment
1.7 is adopted, article V, section 5, will read:

1.8 Sec. 5. In case a vacancy occurs from any cause whatever in the office of governor, the
1.9 lieutenant governor shall be governor during such vacancy. The compensation of the
1.10 lieutenant governor shall be prescribed by law. ~~The last elected presiding officer~~ governor,
1.11 with the advice and consent of the senate, shall appoint a person to become lieutenant
1.12 governor in case a vacancy occurs in that office. In case the governor is unable to discharge
1.13 the powers and duties of his office, the same devolves on the lieutenant governor. The
1.14 legislature may provide by law for the case of the removal, death, resignation, or inability
1.15 both of the governor and lieutenant governor to discharge the duties of governor and may
1.16 provide by law for continuity of government in periods of emergency resulting from disasters
1.17 caused by enemy attack in this state, including but not limited to, succession to the powers
1.18 and duties of public office and change of the seat of government.

1.19 Sec. 2. **SUBMISSION TO VOTERS.**

1.20 (a) The proposed amendment must be submitted to the people at the 2018 general election.
1.21 The question submitted must be:

2.1 "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to require the governor to appoint, with
2.2 the consent of the senate, a lieutenant governor to fill a vacancy in the office of lieutenant
2.3 governor, instead of having the president of the senate automatically ascend to become the
2.4 lieutenant governor?"

2.5 Yes

2.6 No "

2.7 (b) The title required under Minnesota Statutes, section 204D.15, subdivision 1, for the
2.8 question submitted to the people under paragraph (a) shall be: "Filling a Vacancy for
2.9 Lieutenant Governor by Governor's Appointment."