

**SENATE**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE**

**S.F. No. 1577**

(SENATE AUTHORS: NEWMAN, Chamberlain, Ingebrigtsen, Limmer and Brown)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
01/26/2012	3648	Introduction and first reading Referred to Local Government and Elections
02/16/2012	3827a 3829	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to State Government Innovation and Veterans Rule 12.10: report of votes in committee
02/27/2012		Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Finance

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, article VII, section 1;  
1.3 requiring voters to present photographic identification; providing photographic  
1.4 identification to voters at no charge; requiring substantially equivalent  
1.5 verification standards for all voters.

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

1.7 Section 1. **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED.**

1.8 An amendment to the Minnesota Constitution is proposed to the people. If the  
1.9 amendment is adopted, article VII, section 1, will read:

1.10 Section 1. (a) Every person 18 years of age or more who has been a citizen of the United  
1.11 States for three months and who has resided in the precinct for 30 days next preceding  
1.12 an election; who, at the time of voting in person, shall present government-issued  
1.13 photographic identification as prescribed by law, or who, when not voting in person, shall  
1.14 provide government-issued proof of identity as prescribed by law; and whose eligibility to  
1.15 vote has been established under this section shall be entitled to vote in that precinct. The  
1.16 state must make photographic identification available to eligible individuals at no charge.  
1.17 The place of voting by one otherwise qualified who has changed his residence within 30  
1.18 days preceding the election shall be prescribed by law. The following persons shall not be  
1.19 entitled or permitted to vote at any election in this state: A person not meeting the above  
1.20 requirements; a person who has been convicted of treason or felony, unless restored to civil  
1.21 rights; a person under guardianship, or a person who is insane or not mentally competent.

1.22 (b) All voters must be subject to substantially equivalent eligibility verification  
1.23 prior to a ballot being cast or accepted. Provisional and absentee ballots shall be counted  
1.24 if government-issued photo identification or government-issued proof of identity is

2.1 presented or provided within ten calendar days to the appropriate elections official as  
2.2 prescribed by law.

2.3 (c) If any provision in this section is found invalid under the United States  
2.4 Constitution or federal law, the remaining provisions in this section shall remain valid to  
2.5 the extent that the United States Constitution and federal law permit.

2.6 Sec. 2. **SUBMISSION TO VOTERS.**

2.7 The proposed amendment must be submitted to the people at the 2012 general  
2.8 election. If approved, the amendment is effective for elections on or after June 30, 2014.

2.9 The question submitted must be:

2.10 "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended effective June 30, 2014, to  
2.11 require that all in-person voters present an approved form of government-issued  
2.12 photographic identification at the time of voting; that those not voting in person provide  
2.13 government-issued proof of identity; that all voters be subject to substantially equivalent  
2.14 eligibility verification before a ballot is cast or accepted; and that the state provide at no  
2.15 charge an approved photographic identification to eligible individuals?

2.16 Yes .....

2.17 No ....."