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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1420

03/11/2013 Authored by Laine
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Elections

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to elections; establishing a pilot project for conducting elections
1.3 using electronic roster technology; creating the Electronic Roster Task Force;
1.4 appropriating money.

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

1.6 Section 1. **ELECTRONIC ROSTER PILOT PROJECT.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Established.** A pilot project is established to explore the use
1.8 of electronic rosters in conducting elections. The pilot project shall apply to general
1.9 elections for counties, cities, and towns conducted in designated jurisdictions in 2013. The
1.10 standards for conducting the pilot project are as provided in this section.

1.11 Subd. 2. **Designated jurisdictions.** A total of eight precincts located in Ramsey
1.12 County, Minneapolis, and Minnetonka shall participate in the project. Individual precincts
1.13 shall be selected by the head elections official within each jurisdiction.

1.14 Subd. 3. **Certification of technology.** The pilot project shall be conducted using
1.15 electronic roster technology certified for use in the project by the secretary of state. At a
1.16 minimum, an electronic roster must:

1.17 (1) be preloaded with data from the statewide voter registration system or be able to
1.18 connect to the statewide voter registration system by a secure network, so that information
1.19 may be entered and viewed in real time;

1.20 (2) provide for a printed voter's signature certificate, containing the voter's name,
1.21 address of residence, date of birth, voter identification number, the oath required by
1.22 Minnesota Statutes, section 204C.10, and a space for the voter's original signature;

1.23 (3) immediately alert the election judge if the roster indicates that a voter has already
1.24 voted, is ineligible to vote in the precinct, or the voter's registration status is challenged;

2.1 (4) provide immediate instructions on how to resolve a particular type of challenge
 2.2 when a voter's record is challenged; and

2.3 (5) perform any other functions necessary for the efficient and secure administration
 2.4 of the election, as determined by the secretary of state.

2.5 Subd. 4. **Minnesota Election Law; other law.** Except as provided in this section,
 2.6 the provisions of the Minnesota Election Law apply to this pilot project, so far as
 2.7 practicable. Voters participating in the safe at home program must be allowed to vote
 2.8 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 5B.06. Nothing in this section shall be construed
 2.9 to amend absentee voting provisions in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 203B. The secretary
 2.10 of state may adopt additional procedures for conduct of the pilot project, to the extent they
 2.11 are not inconsistent with this section or any other provision of the Minnesota Election Law.

2.12 Subd. 5. **Election day.** In each precinct participating in the project, the election
 2.13 judges shall use an electronic roster instead of a paper roster to verify registration status
 2.14 of preregistered voters, and may use the roster technology to facilitate same day voter
 2.15 registration procedures.

2.16 Subd. 6. **Evaluation.** The secretary of state must provide for an evaluation of the
 2.17 pilot project and must report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over elections
 2.18 by February 15, 2014. The report must include:

2.19 (1) a description of the technology that was used and explanation of how that
 2.20 technology was selected;

2.21 (2) the process used for implementing electronic poll books;

2.22 (3) a description of training that was conducted for election judges and other election
 2.23 officials in precincts that used electronic poll books;

2.24 (4) the number of voters who voted in each precinct using electronic poll books;

2.25 (5) comments or feedback from election judges or others in a precinct using
 2.26 electronic poll books;

2.27 (6) the costs associated with the use of electronic poll books, broken down by
 2.28 precinct; and

2.29 (7) any other feedback or recommendations the secretary of state believes are
 2.30 relevant to evaluating the pilot project.

2.31 Subd. 7. **Expiration.** The authorization for this pilot project expires upon
 2.32 submission of the report as provided in subdivision 6.

2.33 **Sec. 2. ELECTRONIC ROSTER TASK FORCE.**

2.34 Subdivision 1. **Membership.** (a) The Electronic Roster Task Force consists of the
 2.35 following 15 members:

- 3.1 (1) the director of the Department of Vehicle Services, or designee;
3.2 (2) the secretary of state, or designee;
3.3 (3) the director of information technology in the Office of the Secretary of State;
3.4 (4) the chief information officer of the state of Minnesota, or designee;
3.5 (5) one county auditor appointed by the Minnesota Association of County Auditors;
3.6 (6) one town election official appointed by the Minnesota Association of Townships;
3.7 (7) one city election official appointed by the League of Minnesota Cities;
3.8 (8) one school district election official appointed by the Minnesota School Boards
3.9 Association;
3.10 (9) one representative appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
3.11 (10) one representative appointed by the minority leader of the house of
3.12 representatives;
3.13 (11) one senator appointed by the senate majority leader;
3.14 (12) one senator appointed by the senate minority leader;
3.15 (13) one individual, appointed by the governor, familiar with electronic roster
3.16 technology but who does not represent a specific vendor of the technology; and
3.17 (14) two registered voters, appointed by the governor, who are not affiliated with
3.18 any of the entities otherwise identified in this subdivision.
3.19 (b) Any vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the appointing authority for the
3.20 vacating member.
3.21 (c) Members shall be appointed by June 1, 2013.
3.22 Subd. 2. Duties. (a) The task force must research the following issues:
3.23 (1) electronic roster technology, including different types of electronic rosters; the
3.24 ability to use photographs received from the Department of Vehicle Services; the ability to
3.25 add photographs to the roster on election day; and the ability to connect to the statewide
3.26 voter registration system;
3.27 (2) security of the data in electronic rosters, the statewide voter registration system,
3.28 and the Department of Vehicle Services;
3.29 (3) reliability of Department of Vehicle Services data, including the ability to match
3.30 names and photographs without duplication;
3.31 (4) ability of precincts across the state to connect an electronic roster to a secure
3.32 network to access the statewide voter registration system; and
3.33 (5) direct and indirect costs associated with using electronic rosters.
3.34 (b) The task force must prepare a report summarizing its findings and listing
3.35 recommendations, including model legislation, on the use of electronic rosters that
3.36 integrate photographs.

4.1 Subd. 3. **First meeting.** (a) The secretary of state, or the secretary of state's
4.2 designee, must convene the initial meeting of the task force by July 1, 2013. The members
4.3 of the task force must elect a chair and a vice-chair from the members of the task force
4.4 at the first meeting.

4.5 (b) Members of the task force shall be compensated at the rate of \$55 a day spent
4.6 on task force activities, when authorized by the task force, plus expenses in the same
4.7 manner and amount as authorized by the commissioner's plan adopted under Minnesota
4.8 Statutes, section 43A.18, subdivision 2. Members who, as a result of time spent attending
4.9 task force meetings, incur child care expenses that would not otherwise have been
4.10 incurred, may be reimbursed for those expenses upon council or committee authorization.
4.11 Legislative members of the task force shall receive compensation in the same manner
4.12 as other members of the task force and shall not receive a per diem payment under
4.13 Minnesota Statutes, section 3.099, for activities related to the task force. Members who
4.14 are state employees, not including legislators, must not receive the daily compensation for
4.15 activities that occur during working hours for which they are compensated by the state.

4.16 (c) The Legislative Coordinating Commission shall provide staff support, as needed,
4.17 to facilitate the task force's work.

4.18 Subd. 4. **Report.** The task force shall submit its report to the chairs and ranking
4.19 minority members of the legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over elections
4.20 by February 15, 2014.

4.21 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION.**

4.22 (a) \$..... is appropriated from the general fund to the secretary of state to carry
4.23 out the requirements of section 1.

4.24 (b) \$..... is appropriated to the Legislative Coordinating Commission for the
4.25 purposes of the task force established in section 2.

4.26 (c) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.013 to 16A.016, the secretary
4.27 of state may solicit and accept funds to be used to implement the pilot project in section 1.
4.28 The secretary of state may not solicit or accept funds from a vendor of elections equipment
4.29 or technology. Funds accepted under this section must be deposited in the general fund
4.30 and are appropriated to the secretary of state for the uses authorized by this paragraph.

4.31 Sec. 4. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

4.32 This act is effective the day following final enactment.