

SENATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

S.F. No. 2725

(SENATE AUTHORS: HOFFMAN, Housley and Brown)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/14/2016	5038	Introduction and first reading Referred to Rules and Administration

1.1

A bill for an act

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relating to elections; modifying provisions related to electronic voting systems;

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permitting alternative printed ballot styles; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014,

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sections 204B.35, by adding a subdivision; 204C.24, subdivision 1; 206.80;

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206.86, by adding a subdivision.

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

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Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 204B.35, is amended by adding a

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subdivision to read:

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Subd. 6. **Electronic voting systems.** Notwithstanding sections 204B.35 to 204B.44

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and chapter 204D, a jurisdiction may prepare paper ballots that omit information

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required by law, if the jurisdiction employs an electronic voting system and the required

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information is instead displayed on a touch screen or other electronic device in a format

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that substantially meets the requirements of law.

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Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 204C.24, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

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Subdivision 1. **Information requirements.** Precinct summary statements shall be

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submitted by the election judges in every precinct. For all elections, the election judges

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shall complete three or more copies of the summary statements, and each copy shall

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contain the following information for each kind of ballot:

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(a) (1) the number of ballots delivered to the precinct as adjusted by the actual count

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made by the election judges, the number of unofficial ballots made, and the number of

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absentee ballots delivered to the precinct;

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(b) (2) the number of votes each candidate received or the number of yes and no

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votes on each question, the number of undervotes, the number of overvotes, and the

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number of defective ballots with respect to each office or question;

(e) (3) the number of spoiled ballots, the number of duplicate ballots made, the number of absentee ballots rejected, and the number of unused ballots, presuming that the total count provided on each package of unopened prepackaged ballots is correct;

(4) the number of ballot styles used in the precinct and the number of voters who voted using each style of ballot;

~~(d)~~ (5) the number of individuals who voted at the election in the precinct which must equal the total number of ballots cast in the precinct, as required by sections 204C.20 and 206.86, subdivision 1;

~~(e)~~ (6) the number of voters registering on election day in that precinct; and

~~(f)~~ (7) the signatures of the election judges who counted the ballots certifying that all of the ballots cast were properly piled, checked, and counted; and that the numbers entered by the election judges on the summary statements correctly show the number of votes cast for each candidate and for and against each question.

At least two copies of the summary statement must be prepared for elections not held on the same day as the state elections.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 206.80, is amended to read:

206.80 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS.

(a) An electronic voting system may not be employed unless it:

(1) permits every voter to vote in secret;

(2) permits every voter to vote for all candidates and questions for whom or upon which the voter is legally entitled to vote;

(3) provides for write-in voting when authorized;

(4) automatically rejects, except as provided in section 206.84 with respect to write-in votes, all votes for an office or question when the number of votes cast on it exceeds the number which the voter is entitled to cast;

(5) permits a voter at a primary election to select secretly the party for which the voter wishes to vote;

(6) automatically rejects all votes cast in a primary election by a voter when the voter votes for candidates of more than one party; and

(7) provides every voter an opportunity to verify votes recorded on the permanent paper ballot, either visually or using assistive voting technology, and to change votes or correct any error before the voter's ballot is cast and counted, produces an individual, discrete, permanent, paper ballot cast by the voter, and preserves the paper ballot as an official record available for use in any recount.

(b) An electronic voting system purchased on or after June 4, 2005, may not be employed unless it:

(1) accepts and tabulates, in the polling place or at a counting center, a marked optical scan ballot; ~~or~~

(2) creates a marked optical scan ballot that can be tabulated in the polling place or at a counting center by automatic tabulating equipment certified for use in this state; or

(3) creates a marked paper ballot indicating, at a minimum, the voter's votes for each office or question, generated from the voter's use of a touch screen or other electronic device on which a complete ballot meeting the information requirements of any applicable law was displayed electronically.

(c) The use of multiple styles of electronic voting systems in a jurisdiction is not a violation of a voter's right to vote in secret, provided that a record of the style of electronic voting system used by a voter is not recorded by the election judges or any other elections official in any form.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 206.86, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 5a. **Ballots in precincts with multiple styles of voting system.** (a) This subdivision applies to precincts where multiple ballot styles are required due to the use of multiple styles of electronic voting system in the precinct.

(b) In the event the results of a precinct are subject to a recount under sections 204C.35 or 204C.36, or are subject to a postelection review under section 206.89, a ballot style that was used by ten or fewer voters in the precinct at the election must be comingled with the ballots of another precinct for purposes of conducting the recount or postelection review. To preserve the anonymity of the ballots, the ballots may only be comingled with the ballots of a precinct where an identical ballot style was used and which is also subject to a recount or postelection review.