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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 2423

03/25/2021

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Elections

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to state government; proposing an amendment to the Minnesota
1.3 Constitution by adding a section to article II; establishing a process for a county
1.4 organized by the laws of this state to request approval to be excluded from the
1.5 Territory of Minnesota; establishing requirements for recognition of an application
1.6 and final approval of a request to be excluded.

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

1.8 Section 1. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED.

1.9 An amendment to the Minnesota Constitution is proposed to the people. If the amendment
1.10 is adopted, a section shall be added to article II to read:

1.11 Sec. 3. Notwithstanding section 1, a county organized under the laws of this state may
1.12 make an application to the United States Congress for an amendment to the boundaries
1.13 established as the Territory of Minnesota, for the purpose of excluding that county's
1.14 boundaries from the territory. The state of Minnesota will recognize the application as valid
1.15 if approved by a vote of two-thirds of the county board, and ratified by a vote of two-thirds
1.16 of the voters voting in the county at the next state general election. The question submitted
1.17 to the voters in the county at that election must be:

1.18 "Shall the governing body of [name of county] submit an application to Congress for
1.19 approval to secede from the territory organized as the state of Minnesota?"

1.20 Yes
1.21 No "

1.22 Upon enactment of an authorizing amendment by the United States Congress, a county's
1.23 request to be excluded from the territory organized as the state of Minnesota is effective

2.1 upon approval by two-thirds of the members of each body of the legislature in two successive
 2.2 legislative sessions, and approval by two-thirds of the voters voting at the next occurring
 2.3 state general election. The question submitted to the voters in the state at that election must
 2.4 be:

2.5 "Shall the territory of [name of county] be excluded from the territory organized as the
 2.6 state of Minnesota, and denied all rights, privileges, and benefits provided by the constitution
 2.7 and laws of the state of Minnesota, effective on [date]?"

2.8 Yes

2.9 No "

2.10 The legislature may further enact laws necessary for implementation of this section.

2.11 **Sec. 2. SUBMISSION TO VOTERS.**

2.12 The proposed amendment must be submitted to the people at the 2022 general election.
 2.13 The question submitted must be:

2.14 "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to authorize counties to submit an
 2.15 application to Congress to secede from the territory organized as the state of Minnesota, by
 2.16 a vote of two-thirds of its governing body and two-thirds of the voters at a general election,
 2.17 and further, to recognize such secession if approved by the Congress of the United States
 2.18 according to its procedures, a vote to approve by two-thirds of each body of the legislature
 2.19 acting in two successive legislative sessions, and a vote to approve by two-thirds of the
 2.20 voters voting at the next occurring state general election?"

2.21 Yes

2.22 No "