

**SENATE**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**NINETY-THIRD SESSION**

**S.F. No. 1515**

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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/09/2023	763	Introduction and first reading Referred to Elections
02/13/2023	811	Author added Boldon
02/16/2023		Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Higher Education

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to elections; modifying postsecondary student voter registration provisions;

1.3 requiring the secretary of state to award a Democracy Cup to certain postsecondary

1.4 institutions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 135A.17, subdivision 2;

1.5 201.061, by adding a subdivision; 201.1611, subdivision 1, by adding a subdivision;

1.6 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 5.

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

1.8 Section 1. **[5.60] DEMOCRACY CUP.**

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the definitions have the

1.10 meanings given.

1.11 (b) "Postsecondary institution" means public postsecondary institutions and nonprofit

1.12 degree-granting institutions physically located in Minnesota and registered with the Office

1.13 of Higher Education under section 136A.63.

1.14 (c) "Report" means a National Study for Learning, Voting, and Engagement report issued

1.15 by the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education at Tufts University.

1.16 Subd. 2. **Enrollment; reports.** All postsecondary institutions must enroll in the National

1.17 Study for Learning, Voting, and Engagement by the Institute for Democracy and Higher

1.18 Education at Tufts University. Within 30 days of receiving a report, a postsecondary

1.19 institution must send the report to the secretary of state. The secretary of state must make

1.20 the reports publicly available on the secretary of state's website.

1.21 Subd. 3. **Democracy Cup.** Each January of an even numbered year, the secretary of

1.22 state must award a Democracy Cup to a postsecondary institution with the highest voting

1.23 rate according to the National Study for Learning, Voting, and Engagement at Tufts

2.1 University in each of the following categories: (1) public two-year colleges, (2) public  
 2.2 four-year state universities, (3) the University of Minnesota system, and (4) Minnesota  
 2.3 private colleges.

2.4 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 135A.17, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

2.5 Subd. 2. **Residential housing list.** All postsecondary institutions that enroll students  
 2.6 accepting ~~state or~~ federal financial aid may prepare a current list of students enrolled in the  
 2.7 institution and residing in the institution's housing or within ten miles of the institution's  
 2.8 campus. All postsecondary institutions that enroll students accepting state financial aid must  
 2.9 prepare a current list of students enrolled in the institution and residing in the institution's  
 2.10 housing or within ten miles of the institution's campus. The list shall include each student's  
 2.11 current address, unless the student is enrolled in the Safe at Home address confidentiality  
 2.12 program as provided in chapter 5B. The list shall be certified and sent to the appropriate  
 2.13 county auditor or auditors for use in election day registration as provided under section  
 2.14 201.061, subdivision 3. A residential housing list provided under this subdivision may not  
 2.15 be used or disseminated by a county auditor or the secretary of state for any other purpose.

2.16 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 201.061, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
 2.17 read:

2.18 Subd. 3a. **Additional proofs of residence permitted for students.** (a) An eligible voter  
 2.19 may prove residence by presenting a current valid photo identification issued by a  
 2.20 postsecondary educational institution in Minnesota if the voter's name; student identification  
 2.21 number, if available; and address within the precinct appear on a current residential housing  
 2.22 list under section 135A.17, certified to the county auditor by the postsecondary educational  
 2.23 institution.

2.24 (b) This additional proof of residence for students must not be allowed unless the  
 2.25 postsecondary educational institution submits to the county auditor no later than 60 days  
 2.26 prior to the election a written agreement that the postsecondary educational institution will  
 2.27 certify for use at the election accurate updated residential housing lists under section 135A.17.  
 2.28 A written agreement is effective for the election and all subsequent elections held in that  
 2.29 calendar year, including the November general election.

2.30 (c) The additional proof of residence for students must be allowed on an equal basis for  
 2.31 voters who reside in housing meeting the requirements of section 135A.17, if the residential  
 2.32 housing lists certified by the postsecondary educational institution meet the requirements  
 2.33 of this subdivision.

3.1 (d) An updated residential housing list must be certified to the county auditor no earlier  
3.2 than 20 days prior to each election. The certification must be dated and signed by the chief  
3.3 officer or designee of the postsecondary educational institution and must state that the list  
3.4 is current and accurate and includes only the names of persons residing as of the date of the  
3.5 certification.

3.6 (e) The county auditor shall instruct the election judges of the precinct in procedures for  
3.7 use of the list in conjunction with photo identification. The auditor shall supply a list to the  
3.8 election judges with the election supplies for the precinct.

3.9 (f) The county auditor shall notify all postsecondary educational institutions in the county  
3.10 of the provisions of this subdivision.

3.11 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 201.1611, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

3.12 Subdivision 1. **Forms.** (a) All postsecondary institutions that enroll students accepting  
3.13 state or federal financial aid shall ~~must~~ provide voter registration forms to each student as  
3.14 early as possible in the fall quarter during the fall and spring of each year. In state election  
3.15 years, it must be provided 15 days in advance of the deadline for registering to vote for the  
3.16 state general election. If the voter registration forms are provided electronically, the electronic  
3.17 message must be devoted exclusively to voter registration.

3.18 (b) All school districts shall ~~must~~ make available voter registration applications each  
3.19 May and September to all students registered as students of the school district who will be  
3.20 eligible to vote at the next election after those months. A school district has no obligation  
3.21 to provide voter registration applications to students who participate in a postsecondary  
3.22 education option program or who otherwise reside in the district but do not attend a school  
3.23 operated by the district. A school district fulfills its obligation to a student under this section  
3.24 if it provides a voter registration application to the student one time.

3.25 (c) The voter registration forms must contain spaces for the information required in  
3.26 section 201.071, subdivision 1, and applicable rules of the secretary of state. The institutions  
3.27 and school districts may request these forms from the secretary of state. Institutions shall  
3.28 must consult with their campus student government in determining the most effective means  
3.29 of distributing the forms and in seeking to facilitate election day registration of students  
3.30 under section 201.061, subdivision 3. School districts must advise students that completion  
3.31 of the voter registration application is not a school district requirement.

3.32 (d) The institutions and school districts must report to the secretary of state by November  
3.33 30 of each year on their implementation of this section. At a minimum, the report must

4.1 include how and when the forms were distributed, how many were distributed, and how  
4.2 many were completed. Institutions and school districts may include information about  
4.3 methods that were effective in increasing student registrations.

4.4 (e) By February 1 of each year, the secretary of state must report to the chairs and ranking  
4.5 minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over elections on the data  
4.6 received from institutions and school districts. The secretary must highlight best practices  
4.7 and innovative methods that were most effective in registering students to vote.

4.8 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 201.1611, is amended by adding a subdivision  
4.9 to read:

4.10 Subd. 3. **Voter information.** (a) All postsecondary institutions that enroll students  
4.11 accepting state or federal financial aid must maintain a webpage to share resources to help  
4.12 students determine where and how they are eligible to vote. The webpage must include the  
4.13 following:

4.14 (1) resources from state and local election officials on voter registration and voting  
4.15 requirements including voter registration deadlines; residency requirements; acceptable  
4.16 methods of proving residency for same day registration, as applicable; and absentee voting  
4.17 options;

4.18 (2) applicable deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot, as well as  
4.19 additional options for early and in-person voting, and voting on election day;

4.20 (3) resources to help students who are registered in another state to apply for absentee  
4.21 ballots in that state, and may include resources from state and local election officials from  
4.22 that state;

4.23 (4) the campus vote coordinator's name and contact information; and

4.24 (5) the voter engagement plan required by paragraph (b), clause (3).

4.25 (b) All postsecondary institutions that enroll students accepting state or federal financial  
4.26 aid must designate a staff person as the campus vote coordinator. The campus vote  
4.27 coordinator must:

4.28 (1) ensure the institution complies with this section;

4.29 (2) report the number of physical and electronic voter registrations collected on an annual  
4.30 basis on the institution's voting website; and

- 5.1 (3) consult with the campus student association to develop a voter engagement plan that  
5.2 identifies goals and activities, resources to accomplish the identified goals and activities,  
5.3 and individual or key departments responsible for executing the identified goals and activities.