

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Atkinson, Beyer, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/5, 6/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires automatic vote recount at non-partisan primary election when candidate is within one-fifth of one percent of a majority vote. Specifies that law does not apply to offices of sheriff, county clerk, or county treasurer, or if nominating election is for purpose of filling vacancy.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Cost of statewide recounts
- Frequency of recounts for non-partisan primary elections
- 2010 Primary Election for Superintendent of Public Instruction

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: A non-partisan candidate - other than for sheriff, county clerk, or county treasurer, or to fill a vacancy—in a primary election who receives a majority of the votes cast for the office is elected without running in the general election. Current law provides for automatic recounts if the top candidates are within one-fifth of one percent of each other, but does not address situations where a non-partisan candidate is close to a majority of all votes cast for the office at a primary election.

Non-partisan offices affected by House Bill 2912-A include judge, justice of the peace, county assessor, county surveyor, District Attorney, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Metropolitan Service District offices.