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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SIXTH  
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. **408**

January 29, 2009

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State and Local Government Operations Reform,  
Technology and Elections

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, article IV, section 4;  
1.3 providing staggered terms of office for senators.

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

1.5 Section 1. **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

1.6 An amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, article IV, section 4, is proposed to  
1.7 the people. If the amendment is adopted, the section will read:

1.8 Sec. 4. Representatives shall be chosen for a term of two years, except to fill a vacancy.  
1.9 Senators shall be chosen for a term of four years, except to fill a vacancy, and except as  
1.10 otherwise required by this article. There shall be an entire new election of all the senators  
1.11 at the first election of representatives after each new legislative apportionment provided  
1.12 for in this article, and at that election senators elected from odd-numbered districts shall  
1.13 be elected to two-year terms. The governor shall call elections to fill vacancies in either  
1.14 house of the legislature.

1.15 Sec. 2. **SUBMISSION TO VOTERS.**

1.16 The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the people at the 2010 general  
1.17 election. The question submitted shall be:

1.18 "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to require that, as nearly as possible,  
1.19 one-half of the members of the senate stand for election at each biennial election of  
1.20 legislators, commencing in 2012?

1.21 Yes .....

1.22 No ....."