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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SIXTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE NO. **1265**

March 2, 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 relating to elections; expanding the use of mail balloting; providing a later
1.3 opening time for voting on election days; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008,
1.4 sections 204B.45, subdivision 1; 204C.05, subdivision 1.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 204B.45, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Authorization.** A municipality having fewer than ~~400~~ 1,000
1.8 registered voters on June 1 of an election year and not located in a metropolitan county as
1.9 defined by section 473.121 may provide balloting by mail at any municipal, county, or
1.10 state election with no polling place other than the office of the auditor or clerk or other
1.11 locations designated by the auditor or clerk. The governing body may apply to the county
1.12 auditor for permission to conduct balloting by mail. The county board may provide for
1.13 balloting by mail in unorganized territory. The governing body of any municipality may
1.14 designate for mail balloting any precinct having fewer than 50 registered voters, subject to
1.15 the approval of the county auditor.

1.16 Voted ballots may be returned in person to any location designated by the county
1.17 auditor or municipal clerk.

1.18 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 204C.05, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.19 Subdivision 1. **Opening and closing times.** Except as otherwise provided in this
1.20 section, at the state primary and the state general election the hours for voting in every
1.21 precinct in the state shall begin at ~~7:00~~ 8:00 a.m. and shall extend continuously until
1.22 8:00 p.m.