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State of Minnesota  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**EIGHTY-SIXTH  
SESSION**

**HOUSE FILE No. 1500**

March 9, 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 towns; requiring special town meetings upon petition of electors;  
1.3 amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 365.52, subdivision 1; proposing  
1.4 coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 365.

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

1.6 Section 1. **[365.103] REFERENDUM PERMITTED.**

1.7 The town board may, or upon a petition of at least 20 percent of the electors must,  
1.8 hold a referendum to obtain the approval of the electors on expenditures for a purchase or  
1.9 capital improvement that will cost a total of \$..... or more in a year.

1.10 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 365.52, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.11 Subdivision 1. **How called; statement; petition.** A special town meeting may be  
1.12 held to conduct any lawful business. To call a special meeting, the supervisors and town  
1.13 clerk, or any two of them together with at least 12 other town landowners, shall file a  
1.14 statement in the town clerk's office. The statement must tell why the meeting is called, the  
1.15 particular business to be transacted, and that the interests of the town require the meeting.  
1.16 ~~A special town meeting may also be called on petition of 20 percent of the electors of the~~  
1.17 ~~town.~~ If at least 20 percent of the electors of the town submit a petition to the town clerk  
1.18 requesting that a special town meeting be called, the special town meeting must be held  
1.19 within 30 days of the day the petition is submitted unless the petition requests a later date.  
1.20 The petition must state at the top of each page of signatures the reason for the special town  
1.21 meeting, the date on which the meeting is requested to be held, any alternative dates that  
1.22 would be acceptable, and provide space for the printed name and address and signature of  
1.23 each elector signing the petition. Failure to schedule a special town meeting for which a

- 2.1 petition is properly filed with the town clerk and that is for a lawful town purpose is
- 2.2 a failure to perform a duty under section 609.43, clause (1). The percentage is of the
- 2.3 number of voters at the last general election.