

This Document can be made available in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 4971

03/14/2024 Authored by Olson, B., The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State and Local Government Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to state government; requiring the secretary of state to place advisory
1.3 questions on the 2024 state general election ballot related to the state flag and state
1.4 seal designs adopted by the State Emblems Redesign Commission; repealing laws
1.5 establishing new state flag and state seal designs; repealing Laws 2023, chapter
1.6 62, article 2, sections 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 133, subdivision 1.

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

1.8 Section 1. ADVISORY REFERENDUM ON APPROVAL OF STATE FLAG AND
1.9 STATE SEAL.

1.10 (a) The secretary of state must place separate advisory questions on the ballot at the
1.11 2024 state general election related to the state flag and state seal designs approved by the
1.12 State Emblems Redesign Commission. Except as provided in this section, the questions
1.13 must be placed on the ballot and the results of the election canvassed in the same manner
1.14 as provided by law for a proposed state constitutional amendment. The questions submitted
1.15 must be:

1.16 (1) "Should the state flag design approved by the State Emblems Redesign Commission
1.17 be adopted as the official flag of the state of Minnesota?

1.18 Yes .....
1.19 No ..... "; and

1.20 (2) "Should the state seal design approved by the State Emblems Redesign Commission
1.21 be adopted as the official Great Seal of the State of Minnesota?

1.22 Yes .....
1.23 No ....."

2.1 (b) The secretary of state must provide each county auditor or municipal clerk with  
2.2 sufficient copies of a reproduction of the designs for the state flag and state seal, printed in  
2.3 color, so that examples can be made available for public inspection in each polling place.  
2.4 The county auditor or municipal clerk must ensure that these reproductions are placed in a  
2.5 conspicuous location in the polling place so that voters may view them prior to casting a  
2.6 ballot.

2.7 (c) No later than January 15, 2025, the secretary of state must submit a report to the  
2.8 legislature detailing the results of the advisory referendum.

2.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

2.10 Sec. 2. **REPEALER.**

2.11 Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 2, sections 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; and 133, subdivision 1, are  
2.12 repealed.

2.13 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective retroactively from January 1, 2024.

APPENDIX  
Repealed Minnesota Session Laws: 24-06843

*Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 2, section 1*

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 1.135, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Official seal.** The seal described in subdivision ~~3~~ 3a is the "Great Seal of the State of Minnesota." When the seal, the impression of the seal, the scene within the seal, or its likeness is reproduced at state expense, it must conform to subdivision 3 and section 4.04. A seal, impression, scene, or likeness which does not conform to these provisions is not official.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective May 11, 2024.  
*Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 2, section 133, subdivision 1*

Sec. 133. **REPEALER.**

Subdivision 1. **State emblems redesign.** Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 1.135, subdivisions 3 and 5; and 1.141, subdivisions 3, 4, and 6, are repealed, effective May 11, 2024.  
*Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 2, section 2*

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 1.135, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 3a. **Official seal; May 11, 2024, and thereafter.** The Great Seal of the State of Minnesota is the design as certified in the report of the State Emblems Redesign Commission, as established by this act.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective May 11, 2024.  
*Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 2, section 3*

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 1.135, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Additional effects; size.** Every effort shall be made to reproduce the seal with justification to the 12 o'clock position ~~and with attention to the authenticity of the illustrations used to create the scene within the seal. The description of the scene in this section does not preclude the graphic inclusion of the effects of movement, sunlight, or falling water when the seal is reproduced. Nor does.~~ This section does not prohibit the enlargement, proportioned reduction, or embossment of the seal for its use in unofficial acts.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective May 11, 2024.  
*Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 2, section 4*

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 1.135, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **State's duties.** State agencies and departments using the seal, its impression, ~~the scene within the seal~~ or its likeness shall make every effort to bring any seal, impression, ~~scene~~, or likeness currently fixed to a permanent object into accordance with this section and section 4.04. Expendable material to which the seal in effect prior to May 11, 2024, or any impression, scene, or likeness of that seal is currently affixed may be used until the supply is exhausted or until January 1, 2025, whichever occurs first. All unused dies and engravings of the Great Seal shall be given to the Minnesota Historical Society, along with all historical information available about the seal, to be retained in the society's permanent collection.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective May 11, 2024.  
*Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 2, section 5*

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 1.141, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Adoption.** The design of the state flag ~~proposed by the Legislative Interim Commission acting under Laws 1955, chapter 632,~~ as certified in the report of the State Emblems Redesign Commission, as established by this act, is adopted as the official state flag.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective May 11, 2024.