

**SENATE**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**NINETY-FIRST SESSION**

**S.F. No. 3239**

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DATE  
02/17/2020

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Introduction and first reading  
Referred to E-12 Finance and Policy

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to education; authorizing school districts to renew expiring referendums  
1.3 by action of school board; providing for referendum to revoke board-renewed  
1.4 authority; amending Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 126C.17, by adding  
1.5 subdivisions.

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

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 126C.17, is amended by adding a subdivision  
1.8 to read:

1.9 Subd. 9b. **Renewal by school board.** (a) Notwithstanding the election requirements of  
1.10 subdivision 9, a school board may renew an expiring referendum by board action if:

1.11 (1) the per-pupil amount of the referendum is the same as the amount expiring;

1.12 (2) the term of the renewed referendum is no longer than the initial term approved by  
1.13 the voters; and

1.14 (3) the school board has adopted a written resolution authorizing the renewal after holding  
1.15 a meeting and allowing public testimony on the proposed renewal.

1.16 (b) The resolution must be adopted by the school board by June 15 of any calendar year  
1.17 and becomes effective 60 days after its adoption.

1.18 (c) A referendum expires in the last fiscal year in which the referendum generates revenue  
1.19 for the school district. A school board may renew an expiring referendum under this  
1.20 subdivision not more than two fiscal years before the referendum expires.

2.1 (d) A district renewing an expiring referendum under this subdivision must submit a  
2.2 copy of the adopted resolution to the commissioner and to the county auditor no later than  
2.3 September 1 of the calendar year in which the levy is certified.

2.4 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2020.

2.5 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 126C.17, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
2.6 read:

2.7 Subd. 14. **Reverse referendum.** (a) A referendum on the question of revoking  
2.8 board-renewed authority under subdivision 9b shall be called by the board upon written  
2.9 petition of qualified voters of the district. A referendum to revoke a district's board-renewed  
2.10 referendum authority must state the authority to be revoked in total and per pupil unit. A  
2.11 revocation referendum may be held to revoke board-renewed referendum revenue for the  
2.12 following fiscal year and for years thereafter.

2.13 (b) A petition authorized by this subdivision is effective if:

2.14 (1) signed by a number of qualified voters in excess of 25 percent of the registered voters  
2.15 of the district on the day the petition is filed with the board; and

2.16 (2) filed with the board by June 1 of that year.

2.17 A referendum invoked by petition must be held on the date required in subdivision 9.

2.18 (c) The approval of 50 percent plus one of those voting on the question is required to  
2.19 revoke board-renewed referendum authority.

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