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## OLR Bill Analysis

**sHB 7242 (as amended by House "A")\***

***AN ACT STUDYING EFFORTS TO INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION AND AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL PILOT PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE SUCH EFFORTS.***

### **SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a nine-member task force to study ways to achieve 100% voter participation and enhance civic engagement, and assess the administrative and financial barriers to reach these goals. By February 1, 2026, the task force must report to the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee on its findings and recommendations, including any potential legislation to direct resources or funds to municipalities for increasing voter participation. The task force terminates on the date that it submits its report or February 1, 2026, whichever is later.

The bill also allows municipalities, within existing resources, to establish a pilot program to promote the goal of achieving 100% municipal voter participation. The program may include efforts to enhance civic engagement, including voter outreach and education campaigns. The bill specifies that these pilot programs are subject to the state's election law and municipal restrictions on diverging from certain state election policies.

\*House Amendment "A" reduces the number of task force members appointed by the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore from two each to one each.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

### **VOTER PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE**

The task force must study (1) efforts to achieve 100% voter participation in the state by January 1, 2030, and potential implementation options; (2) ways to generally enhance civic

engagement; (3) the experiences of jurisdictions that require citizens to vote; (4) municipal officials' needs in administering elections with 100% participation; and (5) needed budgetary resources to achieve 100% participation.

The task force members include the secretary of the state, or her designee, and eight members appointed as follows:

1. two by the governor; and
2. one each by the House speaker, Senate president pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders of each chamber.

Members appointed by the legislative leaders may be legislators. The bill requires (1) initial appointments to be made by August 1, 2025, and (2) the first meeting to be held by September 1, 2025. The appointing authority must fill any vacancy. The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must select the chairperson, who must schedule the first meeting. The GAE Committee's administrative staff must serve as the task force's administrative staff.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13    Nay 6    (03/26/2025)