SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

S.F. No. 889

(SENATE AUTHORS: SENJEM)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/17/2011	545	Introduction and first reading Referred to Taxes

A bill for an act

proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, article VII, section 1; allowing agricultural land, nonhomesteaded, noncommercial real property owners, and small business property owners to vote on bonding and property tax questions where the property is located; providing implementing language; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 204B.

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

Section 1. **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED.**

An amendment to the Minnesota Constitution is proposed to the people. If the amendment is adopted, article VII, section 1, will read:

Section 1. Every person 18 years of age or more who has been a citizen of the United States for three months and who has resided in the precinct for 30 days next preceding an election shall be entitled to vote in that precinct. In addition, every person 18 years of age or more who has been a citizen of the United States and resident of this state for three months and who is the owner of agricultural land or nonhomesteaded, noncommercial real property or who is the owner of commercial or industrial real property and conducts on the property a small business as defined by law may vote in the precinct where the real property is located on any question concerning local levies or referendums. The place of voting by one otherwise qualified who has changed his residence within 30 days preceding the election shall be prescribed by law. The following persons shall not be entitled or permitted to vote at any election in this state: A person not meeting the above requirements; a person who has been convicted of treason or felony, unless restored to civil rights; a person under guardianship, or a person who is insane or not mentally competent.

Sec. 2. **SUBMISSION TO VOTERS.**

The proposed amendment must be submitted to the people at the 2012 general election. The question submitted must be:

"Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to allow the owner of agricultural land or nonhomesteaded, noncommercial real property or the owner of commercial or industrial real property who on that property conducts a small business as defined by law to vote on local levies or referendums where the real property is located?

Yes .....

No ....."

Sec. 3. **[204B.49] CERTAIN PROPERTY TAX AND BOND QUESTIONS; SECRETARY OF STATE RULES.**

The owner of agricultural land or nonhomesteaded, noncommercial real property or the owner of commercial or industrial real property who conducts on that property a small business as defined by law may vote in the precinct where the real property is located on any question concerning local levies or referendums. Owners may register to vote in the precinct, for purposes of these questions only, under procedures developed by the secretary of state by rule. Owners may vote by absentee ballot in the manner provided by chapter 203B or may vote in a mail election as provided in section 204B.45.

Sec. 4. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Section 3 is effective upon ratification of the amendment proposed in section 1.