HB 2805 -- RANKED-CHOICE VOTING

SPONSOR: Aune

This bill implements a system of instant runoff voting. Voters
rank candidates in order of preference on their ballots. During
tabulation, if no candidate receives a simple majority of the votes
cast, the candidate with the fewest votes will be eliminated and
each ballot in which that candidate was the voter's first choice
will be allocated to the second choice marked on that ballot. This
process repeats until a candidate receives a simple majority of the
votes cast.

The bill prescribes procedures for counting, recording, and
certifying ranked-choice ballots and includes procedures for
elections in which more than one candidate is to be elected in a
multiple-seat district or when multiple at-large seats are being
filled. Local election authorities are allowed to limit the number
of choices to no fewer than three per open seat when a voting
system cannot accommodate choices equal to the total number of
candidates running. Such a limitation may be appealed to the
Secretary of State then to any court of competent jurisdiction.
Procedures for handling exhausted ballots, as defined in the bill,
are provided.

Beginning January 1, 2025, any voting machine not compatible with a
ranked-choice ballot that is removed from an election authority's
inventory can only be replaced with new voting equipment compatible
with a ranked-choice ballot.

Ranked-choice voting will be applied by an election authority when
a sufficient inventory of ranked-choice voting compatible equipment
is acquired.

This bill is similar to HB 739 (2023).