

Date of Hearing: June 26, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND REDISTRICTING

Marc Berman, Chair

SB 423 (Umberg) – As Amended May 27, 2020

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING AMENDMENTS

Legislative Counsel RN 20 13219

SENATE VOTE: (vote not relevant)

SUBJECT: November 3, 2020, statewide general election.

The Committee is hearing SB 423 solely for the purpose of adopting author's amendments. Because these amendments add an urgency clause to the bill, they cannot be adopted without a vote of the committee.

In accordance with Joint Rule 58, the Assembly Rules Committee approved the addition of an urgency clause to this bill at its hearing on June 3, 2020.

The proposed amendments:

- 1) Add an urgency clause, allowing this bill to take effect immediately upon enactment.
- 2) Make the following changes to in-person voting procedures that this bill permits a county to choose to follow in lieu of meeting the requirements of existing law:
 - a) Eliminates a requirement that consolidated precinct boards formed under the bill must serve no more than 10 precincts, while maintaining a requirement that there be at least one such board for every 10,000 registered voters.
 - b) Require a consolidated polling place to be located within the boundary of one of the precincts it serves.
- 3) Clarify that the voter education and outreach campaign that this bill requires counties to conduct for the November 3, 2020 statewide general election must be in all legally required languages for that county. Require the education and outreach campaign to include information about accessible voting options.
- 4) Specify all of the following, for the purposes of the provisions of this bill that allow a county to apply to the Secretary of State (SOS) for a waiver from specified requirements in this bill or in existing law:
 - a) That the SOS may consider requests to adjust or waive *location requirements* for vote centers, consolidated polling places, or ballot drop-off locations.
 - b) That the SOS is prohibited from granting a *complete* waiver of the minimally required number, location, or operational duration of vote centers, consolidated polling places, or ballot drop-off locations, and instead specify that the SOS may grant *partial* waivers from those requirements.

- c) That any county that requests a modification or partial waiver from the SOS must post that request on the election's official's website.
- d) That the SOS must post its response to a request for a modification or partial waiver on the SOS's website.
- e) That a partial waiver or modification shall not be granted to a county unless the county can demonstrate both of the following, in addition to other requirements already detailed in the bill:
 - i) That the plan will not have a negative disparate impact on disabled voters; and,
 - ii) That the plan will not reduce in-person voting locations below a number of locations necessary to safely and efficiently accommodate the anticipated demand for in-person voting services.
- 5) Require a county elections official, if this bill requires the official to publicly notice a document and post it on the official's website, that the document be noticed and posted in all legally required languages for that county.
- 6) Make technical, clarifying, and corresponding changes.

Analysis Prepared by: Ethan Jones / E. & R. / (916) 319-2094