

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1411 (Sharp-Collins)

As Amended July 16, 2025

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires a county that does not conduct their elections in accordance with the Voter's Choice Act (VCA) model to design and implement an updated voter education and outreach plan.

Senate Amendments

Require each voter education and outreach plan to provide information to the public about options for voters with disabilities, options for in-person voting opportunities, and language accessibility, and require a county elections official to make the most current version of its plan available on its website.

COMMENTS

SB 450 (Allen), Chapter 832, Statutes of 2016, established the VCA and provided a new model for counties to administer elections. The VCA requires counties to mail a ballot to all active registered voters and replaced polling places with vote centers and ballot drop-off locations, as specified. Voters can visit any vote center in the voter's county to return their ballot, register to vote, and vote. Vote centers are required to be accessible to voters with disabilities and provide language assistance in a way that is consistent with current state and federal law. For the November 2024 statewide presidential general election, 29 counties conducted their elections using the VCA model.

The VCA mandates a county to develop a comprehensive election administrative plan which serves to inform voters about expanded voting options and outlines strategies for voter education and community outreach. Specifically, the VCA requires a county to implement a voter education and outreach plan targeted to voters who primarily speak a language other than English, as well as voters with disabilities, to educate all communities on the services available, as specified. Existing law requires a county elections official to submit the plan for approval by the Secretary of State (SOS), as specified.

Existing law requires the SOS to adopt regulations requiring a county to design and implement a voter registration plan. However, following the adoption of related emergency regulations in 1976, few counties have continued to consistently submit updated plans to the SOS, and the regulations are now outdated. This bill repeals that outdated voter registration plan requirement for all counties and instead requires non-VCA counties to submit voter education and outreach plans to the SOS, as specified.

The Senate amendments require voter education and outreach plans to provide information to the public about options for voters with disabilities, options for in-person voting opportunities, and language accessibility, and require the most current version of the plan to be available on a county elections official's website. This bill, as amended in the Senate, is consistent with prior Assembly actions.

According to the Author

"In 2016, California approved the Voter's Choice Act, a new election model that allows voters to choose how, when, and where to vote. Unfortunately not all counties adopted this model creating an imbalance in voting flexibility and information for residents. AB 1411 requires counties that did not adopt the Voter's Choice Act to create a Voter Education and Outreach Plan that will provide voters information about online registration, vote by mail procedures, preregistration opportunities, ballot tracking, options for overseas voter[s] and key election dates."

Arguments in Support

In support to a prior version of this bill, the California-Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP, wrote: "AB 1411 improves upon existing law by requiring counties to create detailed voter outreach plans, not just meet minimum standards. The bill ensures counties submit these plans to the Secretary of State for public access, increasing transparency and accountability. It also provides a standardized template for counties to follow, ensuring consistent and effective outreach. Unlike existing law, which only focuses on registration, AB 1411 also emphasizes educating voters about their voting options, particularly mail-in ballots, helping reach more marginalized communities."

Arguments in Opposition

In opposition to a prior version of this bill, the Election Integrity Project California, Inc. wrote: "The intent of the Legislature should NOT be 'to maintain voter registration at the highest possible level' but 'to educate and motivate as many eligible California citizens as possible to register, vote and engage in the process of citizen self-governance.' High numbers on the voter rolls are dangerous and certainly not boast-worthy if they are bolstered by ineligible registrants (non-citizens, deceased, duplicates and those no longer living in California).

"All eligible Californians should be the focus of such an education and motivation campaign, not just potential voters in selected counties."

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) By requiring local elections officials to develop voter education and outreach plans, as specified, this bill creates a state-mandated local program. To the extent the Commission on State Mandates determines that the provisions of this bill create a new program or impose a higher level of service on local agencies, local agencies could claim reimbursement of those costs. The magnitude is unknown, but potentially in excess of \$50,000 annually (General Fund).
- 2) The SOS indicates that this bill would result in negligible costs.

VOTES:**ASM ELECTIONS: 5-0-2**

YES: Pellerin, Bennett, Berman, Solache, Stefani

ABS, ABST OR NV: Macedo, Tangipa

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4

YES: Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache

ABS, ABST OR NV: Sanchez, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 62-2-15

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO: DeMaio, Gallagher

ABS, ABST OR NV: Castillo, Chen, Davies, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

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