
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**
Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	SB 621	Hearing Date:	4/29/25
Author:	Grove		
Version:	3/24/25		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	No
Consultant:	Scott Matsumoto		

Subject: Voter registration: military and overseas voters

DIGEST

This bill repeals the additional requirements for military and overseas voters to register to vote after the registration deadline to fully align with the existing conditional voter registration (CVR) process for all voters.

ANALYSIS

Existing law:

- 1) Permits a person who is a United States citizen, a resident of California, not imprisoned for the conviction of a felony, and at least 18 years of age at the time of the next election, to register to vote and to vote.
- 2) Permits any eligible person to conditionally register to vote, through a process known as CVR, after the voter registration deadline and before the close of polls on Elections Day. Votes cast using this process are considered provisional ballots unless certain conditions are met.
- 3) Permits a military or overseas voter to apply in person to the voter's elections official for permission to register after the closing date of registration under the following conditions:
 - a) The military or overseas voter is released from service after the closing date of registration for an election, returns to the county of their residence, and is not a registered voter. To register, the person is required to furnish documentary proof that they were released from service after the closing date of registration for the election.
 - b) The military or overseas voter is required to move under official active duty military orders after the closing date of registration. To register, the elector shall furnish a copy of their official military orders.
- 4) Requires the elections official to deliver to the precinct board a list of military or overseas voters who registered to vote using the process in 3) on or before Election Day, or the first day a vote center opens.

This bill repeals the additional requirements in 3) and 4) of existing law for military and overseas voters to register to vote after the registration deadline to fully align with the existing CVR process for all voters.

BACKGROUND

Military and Overseas Voters. In California, an individual is permitted to register to vote electronically. When registering to vote as a military or overseas voter, a voter can choose to have their ballot mailed, faxed, or emailed to them. Additionally, county election officials begin sending ballots to military and overseas voters 60 days before Election Day. The voter may return the voted ballot to their county elections official by mail or, in certain circumstances, by fax.

Conditional Voter Registration. California permits a person to register to vote after the traditional voter registration deadline of 15 days before Election Day. Also known as same day voter registration, CVR is a voter registration that is delivered by the registrant to the county elections official during the 14 days immediately preceding an election or on Election Day. Registration can take place at their county elections office, polling place, vote center, satellite office/location, or online. The registration is deemed effective after the elections official processes the affidavit, determines the registrant's eligibility to register, and validates the registrant's information.

A voter using the CVR process also needs to request a CVR ballot. Receiving a ballot typically happens at a polling location, but can also be received using the county's remote accessible vote by mail (RAVBM) system. An RAVBM system electronically sends a voter a ballot where the voter completes the ballot, prints it out, and returns it to the appropriate elections official. If the elections official determines that the CVR is valid, then the ballot is processed.

COMMENTS

- 1) Author's Statement. This bill would delete Elections Code Section 3108, which is now obsolete due to the passage of SB 504 (Becker), Chapter 14, Statutes of 2022. SB 504 clarified that military and overseas voters are eligible to use CVR without additional requirements, making Section 3108 unnecessary.
- 2) Need for the Bill. In 2012, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed AB 1436 (Feuer), Chapter 497, Statutes of 2012, establishing the CVR process and became operative after the Secretary of State certified California's statewide voter registration database, VoteCal.

Even though AB 1436 was effective, Elections Code §3108 consisted of provisions applicable to military and overseas voters attempting to register after the traditional voter registration deadline. Voters seeking to utilize this process are required to provide documentation that they were released from service after the deadline or required to move under military active duty military orders.

Because AB 1436 applied to all voters, and not specifically for those in an official service capacity, the provisions in Elections Code §3108 are no longer needed. Any overseas voters, regardless of their duties, can use the current CVR process.

Having this provision in statute has the possibility of creating confusion for military and overseas voters trying to register to vote and vote.

- 3) Double Referral. This bill is double-referred to this committee and the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, where it is scheduled to be heard on April 28, 2025.

RELATED/PRIOR LEGISLATION

SB 504 (Becker), Chapter 14, Statutes of 2022, among other provisions, permitted the Secretary of State to adopt emergency regulations to implement CVR.

AB 1436 (Feuer), Chapter 497, Statutes of 2012, established the CVR process and became operative after the Secretary of State certified California's statewide voter registration database, VoteCal.

POSITIONS

Sponsor: California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.

Support: California Association of Clerks and Election Officials
League of Women Voters of California
Wounded Heroes Fund

Oppose: None received

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