

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 4, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 15, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2007

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 924**

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**Introduced by Senator Perata**

**(Principal coauthors: Senators Migden and Romero)**

**(Coauthors: Senators Corbett, Kuehl, Oropeza, Ridley-Thomas,  
Scott, Steinberg, and Wiggins)**

**(Coauthor: Assembly Member Dymally Coauthors: Assembly Members  
Dymally and Eng)**

February 23, 2007

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An act relating to Iraq, and calling an election, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 924, as amended, Perata. Iraq war: advisory election.

**This**

*(1) This bill would require the Secretary of State to call an election for the purpose of placing before the voters of the state an advisory question asking whether the President should end the United States occupation of Iraq, and whether the President and the Congress should provide the necessary diplomatic and nonmilitary assistance to promote peace and stability in Iraq and the Middle East. The bill would require the Secretary of State to communicate the results of this election to the President and to consolidate this election with the statewide presidential primary election of February 5, 2008. By increasing the duties of local elections officials, the addition of an election to place an advisory question on the ballot would impose a state-mandated local program.*

The

(2) *The* California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

This

(3) *This* bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an act calling for an election.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) Whereas, The United States is now into the fifth year of a  
4 war in Iraq with no end in sight; and

5 (b) Whereas, On May 1, 2003, President Bush declared the “end  
6 of major combat operations” in Iraq, yet tragic military and civilian  
7 casualties and injuries in Iraq continue, with the fourth year of this  
8 conflict resulting in the greatest number of casualties and injuries;  
9 and

10 (c) Whereas, Despite the deaths of ~~more than 3,300~~ *nearly 3,500*  
11 American men and women in our Armed Forces, and the injury  
12 of more than ~~24,000~~ *25,000* Americans, President George W. Bush  
13 has refused to begin a safe and orderly withdrawal of American  
14 soldiers from Iraq; and

15 (d) Whereas, Civilian casualties in Iraq have been significant,  
16 with more than ~~62,000~~ *64,000* civilian Iraqi men, women, and  
17 children killed, and many more wounded or displaced from their  
18 homes; and

19 (e) Whereas, Hostilities in Iraq have continued for more than  
20 four years, requiring the expenditure of more than  
21 \$350,000,000,000, an amount that has forced the federal  
22 government to devote fewer resources to properly funding schools,  
23 health systems, homeland security, and other vital domestic needs;  
24 and

1 (f) Whereas, Three hundred ~~forty-six~~ *sixty-two* Californians  
2 have been among the service members killed in the Iraq conflict,  
3 more than any other state, and thousands more Californians,  
4 including more than 800 members of California's National Guard,  
5 remain deployed in Iraq and at grave risk; and

6 (g) Whereas, The widely respected and bipartisan Iraq Study  
7 Group recommended that the United States withdraw its Armed  
8 Forces from Iraq by early 2008; and

9 (h) Whereas, In spite of a growing consensus among experienced  
10 and respected military officials, diplomats, scholars, and the  
11 American public that the time has come to begin the safe and  
12 orderly withdrawal of United States Armed Forces, the Bush  
13 Administration has chosen instead to jeopardize the safety of  
14 additional personnel with an ill-conceived "surge", an increase in  
15 the number of troops deployed to Iraq; and

16 (i) Whereas, Despite the best efforts and tremendous sacrifices  
17 made by service members and their families, the continued  
18 presence of United States Armed Forces will not lead to peace and  
19 stability in Iraq or the Middle East.

20 (j) Therefore, in support of the men and women serving in the  
21 United States Armed Forces in Iraq, this act provides the people  
22 of California the opportunity to voice their heart felt concerns and  
23 to be heard at the ballot on this critical issue.

24 SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of State shall call an election for  
25 the purpose of placing before the voters of this state the following  
26 advisory question:

27 Shall President George W. Bush, in support of the men and  
28 women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, end the  
29 United States occupation of Iraq and immediately begin the safe  
30 and orderly withdrawal of ~~all~~ United States forces; and, further,  
31 shall President George W. Bush and the Congress provide the  
32 necessary diplomatic and nonmilitary assistance to promote peace  
33 and stability in Iraq and the Middle East?

34 (b) Upon certification of the election, the Secretary of State  
35 shall communicate to President George W. Bush the results of the  
36 election asking the question set forth in subdivision (a).

37 (c) The provisions of the Elections Code that apply to the  
38 preparation of ballot measures and ballot materials at a statewide  
39 election shall apply to the measure submitted pursuant to this  
40 section.

1 (d) Notwithstanding Section 9040 of the Elections Code, the  
2 Secretary of State shall consolidate the election provided for in  
3 subdivision (a) with the statewide presidential primary election to  
4 be held on February 5, 2008.

5 SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
6 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
7 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
8 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
9 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

10 SEC. 4. This act calls an election within the meaning of Article  
11 IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect.