

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 15, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 31, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 11, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 27, 2011

SENATE BILL

No. 397

Introduced by Senator Yee
(Coauthor: Senator Calderon)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members *Ammiano, Blumenfield, Hall, Huffman*
and, Portantino, and Williams)

February 16, 2011

An act to amend Section 2196 of the Elections Code, relating to online voter registration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 397, as amended, Yee. Online voter registration.

Existing law prohibits any person from being registered as a voter except by affidavit of registration and requires that the affidavit be mailed or delivered to the county elections official. The Secretary of State has certain administrative duties under existing law in providing voter registration materials. The federal National Voter Registration Act of 1993 provides for state departments of motor vehicles to make voter registration information and materials available to an applicant for a driver's license and other vehicular documents. Existing state law requires licensed persons to provide to the Department of Motor Vehicles a signature and the Department of Motor Vehicles is required to digitize that signature and forward the digitized signature to the Secretary of State if a person wishes to register to vote. Under existing law, operative when the Secretary of State certifies that the state has a

statewide voter registration database that complies with the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002, a person who is qualified to register to vote and who has a valid California driver's license or state identification card is authorized to submit an affidavit of voter registration electronically on the Internet Web site of the Secretary of State. Under the above-described online voter registration provisions, the Secretary of State, for each electronic affiant, is required to obtain an electronic copy of the applicant's signature from his or her driver's license or state identification card directly from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

This bill would require the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Secretary of ~~state~~ *State* to develop a process and the infrastructure to allow electronic copies of the applicants' signatures and other information required under the above provisions that is in the possession of the department to be transferred to the Secretary of State and to the county election management systems to allow a person who is qualified to register to vote in California to register to vote under the above provisions.

This bill would provide, as an alternative operative date, that the above provisions shall become operative on the date the Secretary of State either certifies that the state has a statewide voter registration database that complies with the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 or executes a declaration stating that certain specified conditions have occurred. *For purposes of implementing the above provisions as expeditiously as possible, if the provisions become operative under the latter, the Secretary of State's office would be exempt from certain provisions relating to information technology, as specified, in implementing the provisions.*

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 2196 of the Elections Code is amended
2 to read:
3 2196. (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
4 person who is qualified to register to vote and who has a valid
5 California driver's license or state identification card may submit
6 an affidavit of voter registration electronically on the Internet Web
7 site of the Secretary of State.

1 (2) An affidavit submitted pursuant to this section is effective
2 upon receipt of the affidavit by the Secretary of State if the affidavit
3 is received on or before the ~~15th day prior to~~ *last day to register*
4 *for* an election to be held in the precinct of the person submitting
5 the affidavit.

6 (3) The affiant shall affirmatively attest to the truth of the
7 information provided in the affidavit.

8 (4) For voter registration purposes, the applicant shall
9 affirmatively assent to the use of his or her signature from his or
10 her driver's license or state identification card.

11 (5) For each electronic affidavit, the Secretary of State shall
12 obtain an electronic copy of the applicant's signature from his or
13 her driver's license or state identification card directly from the
14 Department of Motor Vehicles.

15 (6) The Secretary of State shall require a person who submits
16 an affidavit pursuant to this section to submit all of the following:

17 (A) The number from his or her California driver's license or
18 state identification card.

19 (B) His or her date of birth.

20 (C) The last four digits of his or her social security number.

21 (D) Any other information the Secretary of State deems
22 necessary to establish the identity of the affiant.

23 (7) Upon submission of an affidavit pursuant to this section, the
24 electronic voter registration system shall provide for immediate
25 verification of both of the following:

26 (A) That the applicant has a California driver's license or state
27 identification card and that the number for that driver's license or
28 identification card provided by the applicant matches the number
29 for that person's driver's license or identification card that is on
30 file with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

31 (B) That the date of birth provided by the applicant matches the
32 date of birth for that person that is on file with the Department of
33 Motor Vehicles.

34 (8) The Secretary of State shall employ security measures to
35 ensure the accuracy and integrity of voter registration affidavits
36 submitted electronically pursuant to this section.

37 (b) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall utilize the electronic
38 voter registration system required by this section to comply with
39 its duties and responsibilities as a voter registration agency pursuant

1 to the federal National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C.
2 Sec. 1973gg et seq.).

3 (c) The Department of Motor Vehicles and the Secretary of
4 State shall develop a process and the infrastructure to allow the
5 electronic copy of the applicant's signature and other information
6 required under this section that is in the possession of the
7 department to be transferred to the Secretary of State and to the
8 county election management systems to allow a person who is
9 qualified to register to vote in California to register to vote under
10 this section.

11 (d) This chapter shall become operative upon the date of that
12 either of the following occurs:

13 (1) The Secretary of State certifies that the state has a statewide
14 voter registration database that complies with the requirements of
15 the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 15301
16 et seq.).

17 (2) The Secretary of State executes a declaration stating that *all*
18 *of the following conditions have occurred:*

19 (A) The United States Election Assistance Commission has
20 approved the use of *the federal* Help America Vote Act of 2002
21 *(42 U.S.C. Sec. 15301)* funding to provide online voter registration
22 in advance of the deployment of the statewide voter registration
23 database *or other federal funding is available and approved for*
24 *the same purpose.*

25 (B) The Department of Motor Vehicles and the Secretary of
26 State have developed a process and the infrastructure necessary
27 to implement paragraph (5) of subdivision (a).

28 (C) All county election management systems have been modified
29 to receive and store electronic voter registration information
30 received from the Secretary of State in order to allow a person
31 who is qualified to register to vote in California to register to vote
32 under this section.

33 (e) *For purposes of implementing this chapter as expeditiously*
34 *as possible, if it becomes operative pursuant to paragraph (2) of*
35 *subdivision (d), the Secretary of State's office shall be exempt from*
36 *information technology requirements included in Sections 11545,*
37 *11546, and 11547 of the Government Code and Section 12100 of*

- 1 *the Public Contract Code, and from information technology project*
- 2 *and funding approvals included in any other provision of law.*

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