

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 891**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Jones**

February 22, 2013

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An act to amend Section 2157 of the Elections Code, relating to voter registration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 891, as introduced, Jones. Voter registration: requirements.

Existing law sets forth the procedures for registering to vote and processing voter registration information and requires the Secretary of State to adopt regulations that prescribe the form of the voter's affidavit of registration.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 2157 of the Elections Code is amended  
2 to read:  
3 2157. (a) Subject to this chapter, the paper affidavit of  
4 registration shall be in a form prescribed by regulations adopted  
5 by the Secretary of State. The affidavit shall *comply with all of the*  
6 *following*:  
7 (1) Contain the information prescribed in Section 2150.  
8 (2) Be sufficiently uniform among the separate counties to allow  
9 for the processing and use by one county of an affidavit completed  
10 in another county.

1 (3) Allow for the inclusion of informational language to meet  
2 the specific needs of that county, including, but not limited to, the  
3 return address of the elections official in that county, and a  
4 telephone number at which a voter can obtain elections information  
5 in that county.

6 (4) Be included on one portion of a multipart card, to be known  
7 as a voter registration card, the other portions of which shall include  
8 information sufficient to facilitate completion and mailing of the  
9 affidavit. The affidavit portion of the multipart card shall be  
10 numbered according to regulations adopted by the Secretary of  
11 State. For purposes of facilitating the distribution of voter  
12 registration cards as provided in Section 2158, there shall be  
13 attached to the affidavit portion a receipt. The receipt shall be  
14 separated from the body of the affidavit by a perforated line.

15 (5) Contain, in a type size and color of ink that is clearly  
16 distinguishable from surrounding text, a statement identical or  
17 substantially similar to the following:

18 “Certain voters facing life-threatening situations may qualify  
19 for confidential voter status. For more information, please contact  
20 the Secretary of State’s Safe At Home program or visit the  
21 Secretary of State’s Web site.”

22 (6) Contain, in a type size and color of ink that is clearly  
23 distinguishable from surrounding text, a statement that the use of  
24 voter registration information for commercial purposes is a  
25 misdemeanor pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 2194 *and*  
26 *Section 18109*, and any suspected misuse shall be reported to the  
27 Secretary of State.

28 (7) Contain a toll-free fraud hotline telephone number  
29 maintained by the Secretary of State that the public may use to  
30 report suspected fraudulent activity concerning misuse of voter  
31 registration information.

32 (8) Be returnable to the county elections official as a  
33 self-enclosed mailer with postage prepaid by the Secretary of State.

34 (b) Nothing contained in this division shall prevent the use of  
35 voter registration cards and affidavits of registration in existence  
36 on the effective date of this section and produced pursuant to  
37 regulations of the Secretary of State, and all references to voter  
38 registration cards and affidavits in this division shall be applied to  
39 the existing voter registration cards and affidavits of registration.

1 (c) The Secretary of State may continue to supply existing  
2 affidavits of registration prior to printing new or revised forms  
3 that reflect the changes required pursuant to this section, Section  
4 2150, or Section 2160.

5 (d) Nothing in this division shall prevent the lawful use of an  
6 affidavit of registration form provided on a county's Internet Web  
7 site, provided that the county offered the form on the county's  
8 Internet Web site on or before January 1, 2012, and the affidavit  
9 meets the requirements of paragraphs (1), (3), and paragraphs (5)  
10 to (7), inclusive, of subdivision (a). This subdivision shall be in  
11 effect until the Secretary of State makes affidavits of registration  
12 available pursuant to subdivision (e).

13 (e) The Secretary of State shall, in consultation with county  
14 elections officials, design and make available on his or her Internet  
15 Web site an affidavit of registration. The affidavit shall *comply*  
16 *with all of the following*:

17 (1) Contain the information prescribed in Section 2150.

18 (2) Be numbered according to regulations adopted by the  
19 Secretary of State.

20 (3) Contain, in a type size that is clearly distinguishable from  
21 surrounding text, a statement identical or substantially similar to  
22 the following: "Certain voters facing life-threatening situations  
23 may qualify for confidential voter status. For more information,  
24 please contact the Secretary of State's Safe At Home program or  
25 visit the Secretary of State's Web site."

26 (4) Contain, in a type size that is clearly distinguishable from  
27 surrounding text, a statement that the use of voter registration  
28 information for commercial purposes is a misdemeanor pursuant  
29 to subdivision (a) of Section 2194 *and Section 18109*, and any  
30 suspected misuse shall be reported to the Secretary of State.

31 (5) Contain a toll-free fraud hotline telephone number  
32 maintained by the Secretary of State that the public may use to  
33 report suspected fraudulent activity concerning misuse of voter  
34 registration information.

35 (6) Be returnable to the county elections official.

36 (f) Affidavits of registration provided on the Internet Web site  
37 of a county or of the Secretary of State shall be for individual use

- 1 only and not for use by organizations seeking to register people
- 2 to vote pursuant to Section 2158.

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