

Introduced by Senator Yee

February 25, 2013

Senate Joint Resolution No. 6—Relative to the Lines Interfere with National Elections Act of 2013.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 6, as introduced, Yee. The Lines Interfere with National Elections Act of 2013.

This measure would proclaim the Legislature’s support for the federal Lines Interfere with National Elections Act of 2013, and would memorialize the Congress of the United States to promptly pass the act and President Barack Obama to sign the act.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The right to vote is a fundamental right of citizens
- 2 of the United States; and
- 3 WHEREAS, It is a fundamental principle of our representative
- 4 democracy that citizens shall not be required to overcome
- 5 unreasonable obstacles in order to exercise their right to vote; and
- 6 WHEREAS, At the presidential election on November 6, 2012,
- 7 voters in Florida, Virginia, Ohio, and other states waited in line
- 8 for up to seven hours to cast ballots, and some voters were required
- 9 to wait in line well after the polls were closed; and
- 10 WHEREAS, More than 200,000 voters in Florida likely decided
- 11 not to vote in the election held on November 6, 2012, because of
- 12 their frustration with long lines; and
- 13 WHEREAS, United States Senator Barbara Boxer has introduced
- 14 in Congress the Lines Interfere with National Elections Act of
- 15 2013, which would amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002

1 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 15301 et seq.) to ensure that voters in elections
2 for federal office do not wait in long lines in order to vote; and
3 WHEREAS, The Lines Interfere with National Elections Act
4 of 2013 would require the United States Attorney General, in
5 consultation with the Election Assistance Commission, to issue
6 standards by January 1, 2014, regarding the minimum number of
7 voting systems, poll workers, and other election resources needed
8 on election day and during early voting periods to prevent a waiting
9 time of more than one hour at any polling place; and
10 WHEREAS, The Lines Interfere with National Elections Act
11 of 2013 would require states where a substantial number of voters
12 waited longer than 90 minutes to cast a vote in the presidential
13 election held on November 6, 2012, or any election for federal
14 office held after that date, to comply with a remedial plan to
15 minimize the waiting times of voters and to ensure voters do not
16 face similar delays in the future; and
17 WHEREAS, An election system with fair access provides the
18 greatest guard to our rights and liberties; now, therefore, be it
19 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
20 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
21 supports the Lines Interfere with National Elections Act of 2013
22 and respectfully memorializes the Congress of the United States
23 to promptly pass the act and President Barack Obama to sign the
24 act; and be it further
25 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
26 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
27 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
28 Majority Leader of the United States Senate, to each Senator and
29 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
30 States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.