

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1026**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia**

February 26, 2015

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An act to add and repeal Section 12173.5 of the Government Code, relating to elections.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1026, as introduced, Eduardo Garcia. Secretary of State: elections: voter turnout.

Existing law provides that the Secretary of State is the chief elections officer of the state and requires him or her to administer the state's elections laws. Existing law requires the Secretary of State to develop a program to utilize modern communications and information processing technology, including making information available online, to enhance the availability and accessibility of information on statewide candidates and ballot initiatives.

This bill would require the Secretary of State to meet with local registrars of voters, community groups, and other persons as determined by the Secretary of State to develop strategies for improving California's voter turnout. The bill would require the Secretary of State to present findings to specified committees of the Legislature no later than July 1, 2016. The bill would also make findings in this regard. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2017.

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 12173.5 is added to the Government  
2 Code, to read:  
3     12173.5. (a) The Legislature finds and declares the following:  
4     (1) Nationally, the general election held on November 4, 2014,  
5 had the lowest turnout in 70 years.  
6     (2) The number of votes cast by eligible voters in the statewide  
7 general election held on November 4, 2014, was among the lowest  
8 in California's history.  
9     (b) (1) The Secretary of State shall, as he or she deems  
10 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section, meet with  
11 local registrars of voters, community groups, and other persons as  
12 determined by the Secretary of State to develop strategies for  
13 improving California's voter turnout.  
14     (2) After meeting to develop strategies for improving voter  
15 turnout as specified in paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall  
16 report to the Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional  
17 Amendments and the Assembly Committee on Elections and  
18 Redistricting on the strategies developed no later than July 1, 2016.  
19 The report shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of  
20 the Government Code.  
21     (c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2017,  
22 and as of that date is repealed.