

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 23, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1443**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Chau**

February 27, 2015

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An act to add Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 2600) to Division 2 of the Elections Code, relating to voters.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1443, as amended, Chau. Voters: language accessibility.

Existing law establishes the Secretary of State as the chief elections officer of the state and requires that he or she ensure that elections are efficiently conducted and that state election laws are enforced. Existing law declares the intent of the Legislature that non-English-speaking citizens, like all other citizens, should be encouraged to vote and that appropriate efforts should be made to minimize obstacles to voting by citizens who lack sufficient skill in English to vote without assistance.

This bill would require the Secretary of State to establish a Language Accessibility Advisory Committee. The committee would consist of *at least 15 members and would include* the Secretary of State, his or her designees, and additional members appointed by the Secretary of State who either have demonstrated language accessibility experience *for languages covered under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965* or are county elections officials. The bill would require the Secretary of State to consult with and consider the recommendations of the committee.

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. Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 2600) is  
2 added to Division 2 of the Elections Code, to read:

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CHAPTER 8. LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY

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6 2600. The Secretary of State shall establish a Language  
7 Accessibility Advisory ~~Committee~~. *Committee which shall meet*  
8 *no less than four times each calendar year.* The committee shall  
9 consist *of no less than fifteen members and be comprised* of the  
10 Secretary of State and his or her designee or designees and  
11 additional members appointed by the Secretary of State. The  
12 appointees shall either have demonstrated language accessibility  
13 experience *for languages covered under the federal Voting Rights*  
14 *Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.)* or be a county elections  
15 official. *At least three county elections officials shall be appointed*  
16 *to the committee.* The Secretary of State shall consult with and  
17 consider the recommendations of the committee. The committee  
18 shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of State.

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