

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 20, 2015

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 493**

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**Introduced by Senator Cannella**

February 26, 2015

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An act to add Section ~~34873.5~~ 34885 to the Government Code, relating to elections.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 493, as amended, Cannella. Elections in cities: by or from districts.

Existing law generally requires all elective city offices, including the members of a city council, to be filled at large by the city electorate at a general municipal election. Existing law, at any municipal election or special election held for this purpose, authorizes the legislative body of a city to submit to the registered voters an ordinance providing for the election of members of the legislative body by district or from district, as defined, and with or without an elective mayor.

This bill would authorize the legislative body of a ~~general law~~ city to ~~amend~~ adopt an ordinance ~~providing for that requires the election of members of the legislative body from district, as defined, to provide for the election of members of the legislative body by district, as defined, to be elected by district or by district with an elective mayor~~ without submitting the amendment to the registered being required to submit the ordinance to the voters for approval. ~~The bill would prohibit the amendment of the ordinance, as described above, from changing whether the general law city has an elective mayor.~~

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 34885 is added to the Government Code,  
2 to read:

3     34885. Notwithstanding Section 34871 or any other law, the  
4 legislative body of a city may adopt an ordinance that requires  
5 the members of the legislative body to be elected by district or by  
6 district with an elective mayor, as described in subdivisions (a)  
7 and (c) of Section 34871, without being required to submit the  
8 ordinance to the voters for approval.

9     ~~SECTION 1. Section 34873.5 is added to the Government~~  
10 ~~Code, to read:~~

11     ~~34873.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, including, but~~  
12 ~~not limited to, Section 34873, if an ordinance provides for the~~  
13 ~~legislative body of a general law city to be elected from district,~~  
14 ~~as defined by Section 34871, the legislative body of the general~~  
15 ~~law city may amend the ordinance to provide for the legislative~~  
16 ~~body of the general law city to be elected by district, as defined~~  
17 ~~by Section 34871, without submitting the amendment to the~~  
18 ~~registered voters for approval.~~

19     ~~(b) An amendment of the ordinance pursuant to subdivision (a)~~  
20 ~~shall not change whether the general law city has an elective mayor.~~