

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 31, 2000  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 18, 2000  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 4, 2000  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2519**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Shelley**

February 24, 2000

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An act to add and repeal Division 4.5 (commencing with Section 4500) of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2519, as amended, Shelley. Elections: Internet voting pilot program.

Existing law states the intent of the Legislature that voter registration be maintained at the highest possible level and requires the Secretary of State to adopt regulations requiring each county to design and implement programs to identify qualified electors who are not registered voters, and attempt to register those persons to vote.

This bill would establish an Internet Voting Pilot Program. The program would be under the direction of the Secretary of State, and would test the viability, accuracy, security, integrity, efficacy, and public acceptance of use of an Internet voting system as a supplementary method of voting in local

elections held in whole or in part within a participating county.

This bill would require the pilot program to allow voters to engage in Internet voting using a computer at any one of various county-controlled polling places within the participating county. It would require the Secretary of State to select not more than 3 participating counties in accordance criteria developed by the Secretary of State. The bill would provide that participation by a county in the pilot program would be voluntary and subject to approval by the county’s board of supervisors.

This bill would require the Secretary of State to certify the Internet voting system for use by a county participating in the pilot program. The bill would authorize this Internet voting system to be used in a regularly scheduled or special county, municipal or district primary or general election held on or before July 1, 2003.

This bill would provide that a local election that includes a candidate for any federal or state office or a state measure on the ballot is not eligible for inclusion in the program.

This bill would require each participating county to evaluate its participation and experience with the Internet voting system and report thereon to the Secretary of State on or before October 1, 2003, and would require the Secretary of State to summarize the county reports, evaluate its own experience with the Internet voting system, and report thereon to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2004.

This bill provides its provisions shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2004, and as of that date are repealed, unless a later enacted statute which is enacted on or before January 1, 2004, deletes or extends that date.

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. Division 4.5 (commencing with Section  
2 4500) is added to the Elections Code, to read:

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DIVISION 4.5. INTERNET VOTING

CHAPTER 1. INTERNET VOTING PILOT PROGRAM

4500. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The use of modern electronic voting methods should be explored to help increase participation in the electoral process.

(b) Internet voting can help achieve this goal, provided that standards and practices can be developed that will prevent misuse of an Internet voting system.

(c) Issues such as voting fraud, integrity of the system, ballot security, and secrecy of balloting, among other matters, should be addressed.

4501. (a) In order to test the viability of conducting public elections via the Internet, an Internet Voting Pilot Program shall be conducted under the direction of the Secretary of State. The program shall test the viability, accuracy, security, integrity, efficacy, and public acceptance of use of an Internet voting system as a supplementary method of voting in local elections held in whole or in part within a participating county.

4502. As used in this chapter:

~~(a) "Committee" means the California Internet Voting Technical Review Committee, which is created by this chapter.~~

~~(b)~~

(a) "Internet voting" means the casting of a secure and secret electronic ballot that is transmitted to elections officials using the Internet.

~~(c)~~

(b) "Internet voting system" means an election system certified for use by the Secretary of State that uses electronic ballots that allows voters to transmit their voted election ballots to elections officials over the Internet. The Internet voting system shall supplement, and not replace, the voting system in place in the participating counties.

~~(d)~~



1 (c) “Program” means the Internet Voting Pilot  
2 Program authorized by this chapter.

3 (1) The program shall allow voters to engage in  
4 Internet voting by using a computer at any one of various  
5 county-controlled polling places within the participating  
6 county.

7 (2) Procedures for Internet voting under the program  
8 ~~shall be developed by the Secretary of State with the~~  
9 ~~recommendation of the committee.~~ *shall be developed*  
10 *by the Secretary of State.*

11 4503. (a) The Secretary of State shall select not more  
12 than three counties to participate in the program.  
13 Selection shall be based upon criteria developed by the  
14 Secretary of State.

15 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a  
16 ~~county participating in the program may use an Internet~~  
17 ~~voting system certified for use by the Secretary of State~~  
18 *county may participate in the program using an Internet*  
19 *voting system certified by the Secretary of State* in a  
20 regularly scheduled or special county, municipal, or  
21 district primary or general election held on or before July  
22 1, 2003. A local election that includes a candidate for any  
23 federal or state office or a state measure on the ballot is  
24 not eligible to be included in the program.

25 (c) Participation by a county in the program shall be  
26 voluntary and subject to approval by the board of  
27 supervisors of that county.

28 4505. The Secretary of State shall certify an Internet  
29 voting system for use by a county participating in the  
30 program. Certification shall be based upon a  
31 determination that the Internet voting system meets the  
32 standards applicable to all currently certified voting  
33 systems and other standards necessary for certification.  
34 The standards shall conform with current federal and  
35 state law and shall ensure the accuracy, security,  
36 integrity, and usability of Internet voting.

37 4507. Each county that participates in the program  
38 shall evaluate its participation and experience with the  
39 Internet voting system and shall report thereon to the  
40 Secretary of State, on or before October 1, 2003. The



1 Secretary of State shall summarize the reports of the  
2 counties, and evaluate its own experience with the  
3 Internet voting system, and report thereon to the  
4 Legislature on or before January 1, 2004.

5 SEC. 2. This division shall remain in effect only until  
6 January 1, 2004, and as of that date is repealed, unless a  
7 later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1,  
8 2004, deletes or extends that date.

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