

Senate Bill No. 414

CHAPTER 260

An act to amend Section 14310 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

[Approved by Governor August 25, 2000. Filed with
Secretary of State August 28, 2000.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 414, Knight. Voting procedures: voter identification.

Existing law requires that, at all elections, a voter claiming to be properly registered but whose qualification or entitlement to vote cannot be immediately established upon specified examination is entitled to vote a provisional ballot. During the official canvass, existing law requires the elections official to examine the records with respect to all provisional ballots cast.

This bill would further require the elections official to compare the signature of each provisional ballot envelope with the signature on the voter's affidavit of registration. The bill would require that if the signatures do not compare, as specified, the ballot would be rejected.

This bill would impose a state-mandated local program by imposing new duties on local elections officials.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do not exceed \$1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed \$1,000,000.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 14310 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

14310. (a) At all elections, a voter claiming to be properly registered but whose qualification or entitlement to vote cannot be immediately established upon examination of the index of registration for the precinct or upon examination of the records on file with the county elections official, shall be entitled to vote a provisional ballot.

(b) Once voted, the voter's ballot shall be sealed in a provisional ballot envelope, and the ballot in its envelope shall be deposited in the ballot box. All provisional ballots voted shall remain sealed in their envelopes for return to the elections official in accordance with the elections official's instructions. The provisional ballot envelopes specified in this subdivision shall be a color different than the color of, but printed substantially similar to, the envelopes used for absentee ballots, and shall be completed in the same manner as absentee envelopes.

(c) (1) During the official canvass, the elections official shall examine the records with respect to all provisional ballots cast. Using the procedures that apply to the comparison of signatures on absentee ballots, the elections official shall compare the signature on each provisional ballot envelope with the signature on the voter's affidavit of registration. If the signatures do not compare, the ballot shall be rejected. A variation of the signature caused by the substitution of initials for the first or middle name, or both, shall not invalidate the ballot.

(2) Provisional ballots shall not be included in any semiofficial or official canvass, except upon: (A) the elections official's establishing prior to the completion of the official canvass, from the records in his or her office, the claimant's right to vote; or (B) the order of a superior court in the county of the voter's residence. A voter may seek the court order specified in this paragraph regarding his or her own ballot at any time prior to completion of the official canvass. Any judicial action or appeal shall have priority over all other civil matters.

(3) A precinct board member shall notify the voter of the contents of this subdivision at the time of receiving the provisional ballot of the voter.

(4) The provisional ballot of a voter who is otherwise entitled to vote shall not be rejected because the voter did not cast his or her ballot in the precinct to which he or she was assigned by the elections official, provided the ballot cast by the voter contained only the candidates and measures on which the voter would have been entitled to vote in his or her assigned precinct.

(d) The Secretary of State may adopt appropriate regulations for purposes of ensuring the uniform application of this section.

(e) This section shall apply to any absent voter described by Section 3015 who is unable to surrender his or her unvoted absent voter's ballot.

(f) Any existing supply of envelopes marked "special challenged ballot" may be used until the supply is exhausted.

SEC. 2. Notwithstanding Section 17610 of the Government Code, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant



to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the claim for reimbursement does not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000), reimbursement shall be made from the State Mandates Claims Fund.

