



STATE LEGISLATION
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After a brief recess, the State Assembly and Senate reconvened on April 1. When reviewing legislative bills, here are some upcoming dates to keep in mind: April 22 is the last day for policy committees to hear and report to fiscal committees fiscal bills introduced in their house. May 6 is the last day for policy committees to hear and report to the Floor non-fiscal bills introduced in their house. May 13 is the last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 6. Summer recess begins upon adjournment on July 1, provided the Budget Bill has been passed. In upcoming articles, I'll give you some more important dates.

There currently are 467 bills regarding elections and 39 bills on voter registration!

Helpful Links:

<http://senate.ca.gov/>

<http://assembly.ca.gov/>

<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

LEGISLATIVE BILLS

AB 2433, as introduced, Travis Allen (R). Voter registration database: interstate exchange of voter registration information.

Status: Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee. Current hearing date: 3/30/16.

An act to add Section 2195 to the Elections Code, relating to voter registration:

This bill would require the Secretary of State to enter into agreements to share information or data with other states or groups of states in order to improve the accuracy of the statewide voter registration database, as specified. The bill would require the secretary to ensure that any confidential information or data provided by another state remains confidential while in his or her possession, and would authorize the secretary to transmit confidential information or data pursuant to those agreements. The bill would also authorize the Secretary of State to adopt regulations necessary to implement these provisions.

Vote: MAJORITY Appropriation: NO Fiscal Committee: YES Local Program: NO

SB 967, as introduced, Andy Vidak (R). Special elections.

Status: Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee.

Current hearing date: 04/05/16.

An act to amend Section 13001 of the Elections Code, relating to special elections, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately:

Existing law requires counties to pay expenses authorized and necessarily incurred in the preparation for and conduct of elections, except as specified.

This bill would require the state to pay expenses authorized and necessarily incurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before December 31, 2016, for elections proclaimed by the Governor to fill a vacancy in the office of Senator or Member of the Assembly, or to fill a vacancy in the office of United States Senator or Member of the United States House of Representatives. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: 2/3 Appropriation: NO Fiscal Committee: YES Local Program: NO

AB 2065, as amended, Matthew Harper (R). Voter registration: California New Motor Voter Program.

Status: Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee. Current hearing date: 3/30/16.

An act to amend Sections 2263 and 2265 of the Elections Code, relating to elections:

Existing law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue driver's licenses and state identification cards to applicants who meet specified criteria and provide the department with the required information. Existing law generally requires an applicant for an original driver's license or state identification card to submit satisfactory proof to the department that the applicant's presence in the United States is authorized under federal law.

Existing law, the California New Motor Voter Program, requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to electronically provide to the Secretary of State the records of each person who is issued an original or renewal of a driver's license or state identification card or who provides the department with a change of address, as specified. The person's motor vehicle records will then constitute a completed affidavit of registration and the person will be registered to vote, unless the person affirmatively declines to become registered to vote during a transaction with the department, among other conditions.

This bill would require the Department of Motor Vehicles to electronically provide records of a person to the Secretary of State pursuant to this program only if the person has submitted proof that he or she is a citizen of the United States, as specified. This bill would also require that a person affirmatively agree to become registered to vote during a transaction with the department in order for his or her records to constitute a completed affidavit of registration and for the Secretary of State to register him or her to vote.

Vote: MAJORITY Appropriation: NO Fiscal Committee: YES Local Program: NO

"The reporter" joke

A guy walking on the street spots a local comedic political news reporter and asks him, "Why do you make jokes about the government; it is a serious matter?" The reporter replies, "I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts."