

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
P.O. BOX 932328
SACRAMENTO, CA 94232-3280



July 11, 2011

The Honorable Leland Yee, PH.D.
California State Senate
State Capitol – Room 4074
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Yee:

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) respectfully opposes Senate Bill 397.

This measure would require the DMV and the Secretary of State (SOS) to develop a process and the infrastructure to allow the electronic copy of a driver license or identification card applicant's signature and other required information in the possession of the department to be transferred to the SOS and to the county election management systems for purposes of registering qualified persons to vote.

Current law provides for an online voter registration system to be established once the statewide voter registration database (VoteCal) is deployed. The DMV continues to work with the SOS on the current business requirements to providing the SOS with digitized signatures necessary to implement VoteCal. SB 397 seeks an interim online voter registration system be implemented while waiting for VoteCal to become operational, and in time for the 2012 election.

Developing an interim system to online voter registration before the 2012 election would only be possible if all parties involved (SOS, DMV, counties and their election management systems providers) are able to fund and perform all of the programming required and in an extremely short timeframe. For the DMV, this presents a significant programming effort, pulling valuable information technology resources away from the department's mission critical Information Technology Modernization (ITM) project currently underway, as well as numerous legislatively mandated programming efforts. It is unlikely that the programming required by this bill could be accomplished in time for the 2012 election without jeopardizing other projects, including VoteCal itself.

Additionally, we believe that mandating DMV and the SOS to develop a process and infrastructure that provides for the applicant's signature now, without any assurance that these interim processes/efforts would be utilized or incorporated into the online voter registration system that will be developed as part of VoteCal, is not efficient use of valuable DMV information technology resources.

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We recognize the benefit of an online voter registration process to California voters and the potential cost savings that it presents to local governments. However, implementing this interim solution, and in time to be of use before the 2012 election, would pull scarce DMV resources from mission critical programming efforts underway.

If I can provide additional information or answer any questions, please contact me at your convenience at (916) 657-6518.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Rooney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BARBARA ROONEY
Assistant Director, Legislation

cc: Mr. Michael Webb, Deputy Secretary, Business, Transportation and Housing
Assembly Appropriations Committee