



**BILLS OF SPECIAL INTEREST
2015-2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**SUMMARY
March 20, 2015**

<u>AB 44</u> Elections: Statewide Recounts	
AUTHOR:	Mullin
INTRODUCED:	12/01/2014
STATUS:	01/22/2015 To Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Requires the Secretary of State to order an automatic manual recount of all votes cast for statewide office, the office of the President of the U.S., or a state ballot measure if the difference in the number of votes received is less than or equal to 0.1 percent.

<u>AB 182</u> California Voting Rights Act of 2001	
AUTHOR:	Alejo
INTRODUCED:	01/26/2015
STATUS:	02/02/2015 To Assembly Committees on E. & R. and Judiciary
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Provides parallel provisions that prohibit the use of a district-based election in a political subdivision if it would impair the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or otherwise influence the outcome of an election. Requires a court to implement specified remedies upon a finding that such an election was imposed or applied in a manner that impaired the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice.

<u>AB 245</u> Elections: Penal Provisions	
AUTHOR:	Lackey
INTRODUCED:	02/09/2015
AMENDED:	03/12/2015
STATUS:	03/12/2015 To Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Increases the maximum fine for violation of existing law that prohibits the hiring of or arranging for a person in possession of a firearm, uniformed peace officer, private guard, or security personnel to be stationed or posted at a polling place without written authorization of the appropriate elections official, as described.

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**AB 254 Election Dates	
AUTHOR:	Hernandez
INTRODUCED:	02/09/2015
AMENDED	03/18/2015
STATUS:	03/25/2015 Scheduled to be heard in Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Eliminates the established election dates in March and April. Eliminates the exceptions for elections held in a chartered city or chartered county and school district elections consolidated with chartered city elections, thereby requiring these elections to be held on an established election date, except for certain special elections . Declares that increasing voter turnout at local elections and promoting the fundamental right to vote are matters of statewide concern.

AB 277 California Voting Rights Act of 2001	
AUTHOR:	Hernandez
INTRODUCED:	02/11/2015
STATUS:	03/25/2015 Scheduled to be heard in Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Amends the California Voting Rights Act of 2001's definition of "political subdivision" to expressly include a charter city, charter county, or charter city and county. Specifies that it is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this bill to codify the holding of the state courts regarding the applicability of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 to charter cities.

**AB 278 District-Based Municipal Elections	
AUTHOR:	Hernandez
INTRODUCED:	02/11/2015
AMENDED	03/18/2015
STATUS:	03/25/2015 Scheduled to be heard in Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Requires the legislative body of a city with a population of 100,000 or more to adopt an ordinance, without submitting the ordinance to the voters of the city for approval, for the election of members of the legislative body by district. Requires that the boundary lines of each district be adjusted in accordance with specified provisions of existing law, except as otherwise provided. Requires the legislative body to hold public hearings before and after drawing a draft map of the proposed boundaries of the districts of the legislative body, as specified. Requires the legislative body to take certain actions to encourage public participation in the drawing of the proposed

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AB 278 (continued):	boundaries and would require that the proposed boundaries satisfy specified criteria.
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<u>AB 363</u> Closing of the Polls	
AUTHOR:	Steinorth
INTRODUCED:	02/17/2015
STATUS:	03/02/2015 To Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	Bring back
SUMMARY:	Authorizes a county elections official to account for ballots at the central counting place, to direct the precinct board to seal the ballots and to record certain information prior to the closing of the polls and to direct other elections officials to remove the sealed ballots prior to the closing of the polls and to deliver them to a receiving center or central counting place.

<u>AB 372</u> Elections: Write-In Candidates	
AUTHOR:	Bigelow
INTRODUCED:	02/17/2015
STATUS:	03/02/2015 To Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Requires write-in candidates for a voter-nominated office who advance to the general election to pay the prescribed filing fee in order to appear on the general election ballot.

<u>AB 391</u> Voter Registration: Conditional Registration	
AUTHOR:	Gallagher
INTRODUCED:	02/18/2015
STATUS:	03/05/2015 To Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Requires that a registrant provide proof of residence in order for a conditional voter registration to be deemed effective. Provides that if a conditional voter registration is not deemed effective, requires the elections official to process the affidavit of registration, and if all other eligibility requirements are met, requires the registration to be effective in forthcoming elections.

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<u>AB 400</u> Department of Transportation: Changeable Message Signs	
AUTHOR:	Alejo
INTRODUCED:	02/19/2015
STATUS:	03/23/2015 Scheduled to be heard in Assembly Committee on Transportation
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Requires the Department of Transportation, by June 30, 2016, to update its internal policies to allow displays of safety, transportation-related and voting-relating messages on changeable message signs.

<u>AB 477</u> Elections: Vote by Mail Ballots	
AUTHOR:	Mullin
INTRODUCED:	02/23/2015
STATUS:	03/05/2015 To Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Prohibits the elections official from rejecting a vote by mail ballot, if an elections official determines that a voter has failed to sign the identification envelope, if the voter completes and submits a vote by mail ballot affidavit before 5 p.m. on the day before the election. Requires the elections official, to compare the voter's signature on the affidavit, and if the signatures compare to attach the affidavit to the identification envelope and deposit the ballot, still in the identification envelope, in a ballot container in his or her office. Requires that the identification envelope to not be opened and the ballot to not be counted if the elections official determines that the signatures do not compare. Requires the Secretary of State to include the vote by mail ballot affidavit and instructions on completing the affidavit, and certain contact information for all elections officials, on his or her Internet Web site. Requires an elections official to include the vote by mail ballot affidavit and instructions, and certain contact information, on his or her Internet Web site.

<u>AB 479</u> Elections: County Central Committees	
AUTHOR:	Harper
INTRODUCED:	02/23/2015
STATUS:	No action
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Makes a technical nonsubstantive change to existing law that authorizes a county central committee to be elected in each county at every presidential primary election.

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****[AB 547](#)****Elections: Special Elections: All-Mailed Ballot Elections**

AUTHOR:	Gonzalez
INTRODUCED:	02/23/2015
AMENDED:	03/19/2015
STATUS:	03/19/2015 To Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Repeals the condition that the congressional or legislative district lie wholly within San Diego County. Requires certain voter education workshops to be conducted in-person. Authorizes all cities, regardless of population size, counties, and cities and counties, to also conduct an all-mailed ballot special election to fill a vacancy on the legislative or governing body of those entities under the same conditions. Authorizes all-mailed ballot special elections to be held for county initiatives, city initiatives, and district initiatives conducted pursuant to specified provisions. Makes all of these types of special elections subject to the same conditions that apply to the San Diego County pilot program, as specified, except that the entity conducting the special election would not be required to report certain information to the Legislature and the Secretary of State regarding the success of the election.

[AB 554](#)**Elections: Precinct Board Members**

AUTHOR:	Mullin
INTRODUCED:	02/23/2015
STATUS:	03/05/2015 To Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Authorizes an elections official to appoint a pupil who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States, as defined in federal law, to serve as a precinct board member.

[AB 562](#)**Elections: Ballots**

AUTHOR:	Holden
INTRODUCED:	02/24/2015
STATUS:	03/09/2015 To Assembly Committee on E.& R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Requires the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to be listed on the ballot under the heading, STATE. Removes other instructions relating to the placement of this office on the ballot.

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<u>AB 683</u> Direct Recording Electronic Voting Systems	
AUTHOR:	Low
INTRODUCED:	02/25/2015
STATUS:	03/09/2015 To Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Revises the definition of "voter verified paper audit trail" to instead mean a component of a direct recording electronic voting system that prints a synchronous paper record facsimile of each electronic ballot and allows each voter to confirm his or her selections before the voter casts his or her ballot.

<u>AB 786</u> National Voter Registration Act of 1993	
AUTHOR:	Levine
INTRODUCED:	02/25/2015
STATUS:	03/12/2015 To Assembly Committees on E. & R. and Transportation
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Prohibits a county from canceling the prior registration of a voter upon notification by the Department of Motor Vehicles that the voter had moved to a different county, except at the voter's request, until the voter is registered to vote in the county to which he or she has moved.

<u>AB 809</u> Election Dates	
AUTHOR:	Obernolte
INTRODUCED:	02/26/2015
STATUS:	No action
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Makes technical, nonsubstantive changes to existing law that generally requires that an election for a county, municipal, or district initiative measure that qualifies for the local ballot pursuant to specified procedures be held not less than 88 nor more than 103 days after the date of the order of election.

<u>**AB 971</u> Payment of Expenses	
AUTHOR:	Chang
INTRODUCED:	02/26/2015
STATUS:	03/16/2015 To Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Requires expenses authorized and necessarily incurred to prepare for and

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AB-971 (Continued):	conduct certain vacancy elections to be paid by the state.
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*AB 1020 Elections: Voter Registration	
AUTHOR:	Ridley-Thomas
INTRODUCED:	02/26/2015
STATUS:	03/19/2015 To Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Requires that the former address be maintained with the voter record and the registration be updated.

*AB 1026 Secretary of State: Elections: Voter Turnout	
AUTHOR:	Garcia
INTRODUCED:	02/26/2015
STATUS:	03/19/2015 To Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Requires the Secretary of State to meet with local registrars of voters, community groups, and other persons as determined by the Secretary of State to develop strategies for improving California's voter turnout. Requires the Secretary of State to present findings to specified committees of the Legislature no later than July 1, 2016. Repeals these provisions on January 1, 2017.

*AB 1143 Elections: Voter Registration Agencies	
AUTHOR:	Hadley
INTRODUCED:	02/27/2015
STATUS:	03/19/2015 To Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Requires the Franchise Tax Board to send a voter registration card to a taxpayer whose annual income tax return indicates a change of address from the prior year.

AB 1263 Election Day Procedures: Privileges of Voters	
AUTHOR:	Mullin
INTRODUCED:	02/27/2015
STATUS:	No action
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Makes technical, nonsubstantive changes to provisions of existing law that allows a voter, without loss of pay, to take off enough working time that,

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AB-1263 (Continued):	when added to the voting time available outside of working hours, will enable the voter to vote if he or she does not have sufficient time outside of working hours to vote at a statewide election, and provides that no more than two hours of the time taken off for voting shall be without loss of pay.
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<u>AB 1271</u> Elections: Vote By Mail Ballots	
AUTHOR:	Grove
INTRODUCED:	02/27/2015
STATUS:	No action
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Provides that a vote by mail ballot is timely cast if it is received by the voters' elections official via the United States Postal Service no later than 3 days after election day and the ballot is postmarked on or before election day.

<u>AB 1273</u> Election: Fraud	
AUTHOR:	Linder
INTRODUCED:	02/27/2015
STATUS:	No action
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Makes nonsubstantive changes to provisions of existing law which makes it a crime for a person to commit or aid in fraud regarding the casting of a ballot in an election.

<u>AB 1296</u> Elections: Initiative and Referendum Measures	
AUTHOR:	Jones
INTRODUCED:	02/27/2015
STATUS:	No action
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Relates to initiative and referendum. Requires an elections official to immediately place an initiative measure on the election ballot for which it qualifies if the official finds the petition to be sufficient, and if more than one election date is legally possible, the official would be required to place the measure on the ballot for the earliest legally possible date. Provides that this procedure would apply to municipal, county, and district initiative measures, including city and city and county charter proposals, and to municipal referendum measures.

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<u>AB 1301</u> Voting Rights Preclearance	
AUTHOR:	Jones-Sawyer
INTRODUCED:	02/27/2015
STATUS:	No action
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Establishes a state preclearance system whereby if a political subdivision enacts or seeks to administer a voting-related law, regulation, or policy, as specified, that is different from that in force or effect on the date this act is enacted, the governing body of the political subdivision would be required to submit the law, regulation, or policy to the Secretary of State for approval. Requires the Secretary of State to approve the law, regulation, or policy only if specified conditions are met, and provides that the law, regulation, or policy shall not take effect or be administered in the political subdivision until the law, regulation, or policy is approved by the Secretary of State, except as specified.

<u>AB 1414</u> Voter Registration: Requirements	
AUTHOR:	Grove
INTRODUCED:	02/27/2015
STATUS:	No action
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Makes a nonsubstantive change to existing laws that set forth procedures for registering to vote and processing voter registration information and requires the Secretary of State to adopt regulations that prescribe the form of the voter's affidavit of registration.

<u>AB 1443</u> Voting Rights: Language Assistance	
AUTHOR:	Garcia
INTRODUCED:	02/27/2015
STATUS:	No action
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Requires the Secretary of State to notify a county elections official at least 24 months before the Secretary will begin making a determination whether it is appropriate to post election materials in Spanish or other languages.

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AB 1457 Petition Circulator: Certification	
AUTHOR:	Obernolte
INTRODUCED:	02/27/2015
STATUS:	No action
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Makes a technical, nonsubstantive change to existing law that requires a petition circulator, prior to soliciting signatures on an initiative petition, to execute and submit to the person, company official, or other organizational officer who is in charge of signature gathering a signed statement, and requires the person, company official, or other organizational officer who is in charge of signature gathering for the proposed initiative measure to keep the certification on file for not less than eight months after the certification of the results of the election for which the measure qualified, or if the measure, for any reason, is not submitted to the voters, eight months after the deadline for submission of the petition to the elections official.

AB 1458 Secretary of State: Elections: Voter Turnout	
AUTHOR:	Obernolte
INTRODUCED:	02/27/2015
STATUS:	No action
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Makes a technical, nonsubstantive change to existing law requiring a county elections official to conduct a preelection residency confirmation procedure and authorizes a county elections official to contract with a consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees to obtain use of change-of-address data in lieu of mailing a residency confirmation postcard pursuant to the preelection residency confirmation procedure.

AB 1461 Early Voting	
AUTHOR:	Gonzalez
INTRODUCED:	02/27/2015
STATUS:	No action
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Declares that it is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation allowing in-person voting at county offices before the day of the election.

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<u>AB 1477</u> Elections: Vote By Mail Ballots	
AUTHOR:	Burke
INTRODUCED:	02/27/2015
STATUS:	No action
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Makes technical, nonsubstantive changes to existing law that requires that the vote by mail ballot be available to any registered voter and requires an application for a vote by mail voter's ballot to be made in writing to the elections official having jurisdiction over the election between the 29 th and the 7 th day before the election, and any applications received by the elections official before the 29 th day to be kept and processed during the application period.

<u>ACA 2</u> Elections: Voting Age	
AUTHOR:	Mullin
INTRODUCED:	02/24/2015
STATUS:	03/02/2015 To Assembly Committee on E. & R.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Authorizes a United States citizen who is 17 years of age, is a resident of the state, and will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the next general election to vote in any intervening primary or special election that occurs before the next general election.

<u>SB 129</u> Online Voter Registration	
AUTHOR:	Anderson
INTRODUCED:	01/21/2015
STATUS:	02/05/2015 To Senate Committee on Rules
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Makes technical nonsubstantive changes to existing law that is operative when the Secretary of State certifies that the state has a statewide voter registration database that complies with the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 or executes a declaration stating that certain conditions have occurred.

<u>SB 163</u> Elections: Vote by Mail Ballot	
AUTHOR:	Hertzberg
INTRODUCED:	02/04/2015
STATUS:	02/19/2015 To Senate Committee on E. & C. A.

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SB-163 (Continued): CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Requires county elections officials to issue a vote by mail ballot to every registered voter in the county for statewide primary, special and general elections.

<u>SB 169</u> Elections: Polling Places	
AUTHOR:	Gaines
INTRODUCED:	02/05/2015
STATUS:	02/19/2015 To Senate Committee on Rules
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Makes technical nonsubstantive changes to existing law that prohibits a place where the primary purpose of the establishment is the sale and dispensation of alcoholic beverages from being used as a polling place.

<u>SB 365</u> Vote By Mail Ballot Drop Boxes	
AUTHOR:	Pavley
INTRODUCED:	02/24/2015
STATUS:	03/05/2015 To Senate Committee on E. & C. A.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Permits a Vote by Mail voter to return his or her voted vote by mail ballot to the elections official from whom it came at a vote by mail ballot drop-off location. Requires the Secretary of State to promulgate regulations establishing best practices for security measures and procedures that a county elections official may use if the county elections official establishes one or more vote by mail ballot drop-off locations and vote by mail ballot drop boxes.

<u>SB 366</u> Ballot Materials: Translations	
AUTHOR:	Nguyen
INTRODUCED:	02/24/2015
STATUS:	03/05/2015 To Senate Committee on E. & C. A.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Amends an existing law which requires that each translation of a ballot measure and ballot instructions posted at a polling place be provided by a person selected by an elections official from the list of approved translators and interpreters and expands the group of acceptable translators for purposes of those provisions to include persons on the Judicial council's Master List, persons qualified by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and persons from certain accredited institution by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Secretary of

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SB-366 (Continued):	Education, and members of certain professional organizations.
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<u>SB 415</u> Local Election Dates	
AUTHOR:	Hueso
INTRODUCED:	02/25/2015
STATUS:	03/05/2015 To Senate Committee on Rules
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	States the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would prohibit a political subdivision from holding an election on a date other than the date of a statewide direct primary election or statewide general election if doing so would result in a significant decrease in voter turnout as compared to the voter turnout at a statewide election.

<u>SB 417</u> Elections: Election Day Procedures	
AUTHOR:	Stone
INTRODUCED:	02/25/2015
STATUS:	03/05/2015 To Senate Committee on E. & C. A.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Authorizes the precinct board of a county with a geographic area of at least 2500 square miles to remove the ballot container or containers from the polling place while the polls remain open only to facilitate the early delivery of ballots to the receiving centers or central counting places. Requires the Secretary of State to adopt regulations for the secure delivery and transfer of the ballots to the receiving center or central counting place.

<u>SB 437</u> California Voting Rights Act of 2001	
AUTHOR:	Block
INTRODUCED:	02/25/2015
STATUS:	03/05/2015 To Senate Committee on Rules
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Expresses the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that ensures that elections held in the state comply with the requirements of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 which prohibits the use of an at-large election in a political subdivision if it would impair the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or otherwise influence the outcome of an election.

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<u>SB 439</u> Conditional Voter Registration	
AUTHOR:	Allen
INTRODUCED:	02/25/2015
STATUS:	03/05/2015 To Senate Committee on E. & C. A.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Allows a county elections official to offer conditional voter registration and provisional voting at satellite offices other than on election day.

<u>SB 450</u> Elections: Sample Ballots	
AUTHOR:	Allen
INTRODUCED:	02/25/2015
STATUS:	03/05/2015 To Senate Committee on E. & C. A.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Requires the application for a vote by mail ballot that is included with the sample ballot to include a space for the voter to apply for permanent vote by mail status.

<u>SB 505</u> Provisional Voting	
AUTHOR:	Mendoza
INTRODUCED:	02/26/2015
STATUS:	03/12/2015 To Senate Committee on Rules
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Makes a technical, nonsubstantive change to existing law that allows a voter to cast a provisional ballot, and existing law that requires that statutes relating to provisional voting be liberally construed in favor of the voter.

<u>SB 589</u> Conservatorships	
AUTHOR:	Block
INTRODUCED:	02/26/2015
STATUS:	03/12/2015 To Senate Committee on E. & C. A.
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Specifies that the court investigator is required to determine whether the proposed conservatee is not capable of completing an affidavit of voter registration with or without appropriate assistance.

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<u>SB 611</u> Initiative and Referendum Petitions: Circulation	
AUTHOR:	Lara
INTRODUCED:	02/27/2015
STATUS:	03/12/2015 To Senate Committee on Rules
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Makes technical nonsubstantive changes to existing law that authorizes a person who is a registered voter or who is qualified to register to vote in this state to circulate an initiative or referendum petition anywhere within the state.

<u>*SB 784</u> Provisional Ballots	
AUTHOR:	Allen
INTRODUCED:	02/27/2015
STATUS:	03/19/2015 To Senate Committee on Rules
CACEO POSITION:	To be discussed
SUMMARY:	Makes a technical nonsubstantive change to existing law that provides that a voter is entitled to cast a provisional ballot if his or her qualification or entitlement to vote cannot be immediately established, and if a precinct board is unable to find a voter's name on the index of registration on the day of an elections, the precinct board is required to inform the voter that he or she may cast a provisional ballot and, if the voter elects to do so, furnish the voter with the provisional ballot.

ASSEMBLY BILLS	34
SENATE BILLS	14
TOTAL	48

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