

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: July 1, 2008  
POSITION: Oppose  
SPONSOR: Author

BILL NUMBER: SB 381  
AUTHOR: R. Calderon

**BILL SUMMARY: Voter registration**

This bill would authorize a person who has a valid California driver's license or state identification card to register to vote online upon certification by the Secretary of State (SOS) that the statewide voter registration database (VoteCal) is compliant with the requirements of the federal Help American Vote Act (HAVA).

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

The VoteCal project is proposed to be funded in 2008-09 with \$66 million in HAVA funds and does not include an online registration component. The cost of modifications to this project are unknown and it is not clear that HAVA funds could be used for this purpose. While an online registration component may result in savings from fewer voter registration cards and reduced postage, the manual processing would remain for those individuals without online access.

The SOS indicates they would need one position on an ongoing basis and one-time costs for an IT interface with Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to implement online registration.

The DMV indicates this bill would result in costs for the new interface with SOS, and \$150,000 in programming and data center costs to share digitized signatures.

**COMMENTS**

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill as it is premature and has a potential for a significant General Fund impact.

Currently, voter registration in California utilizes a paper affidavit. Voters can partially complete a registration form online but must print and sign a hard copy to be mailed to the appropriate county elections official or the SOS for signature verification.

The SOS VoteCal project is currently funded from federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds (\$66 million) and is anticipated to be implemented in January 2010. The VoteCal project, a state-managed database, is required by HAVA. This database must contain the name and registration information of every legally registered active or inactive voter in the State and will contain the official list of registered voters. Additionally, HAVA mandates the VoteCal system coordinate electronically with systems at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) for identification and list maintenance purposes.

This bill will permit eligible persons to register to vote over the Internet using digitized signatures on file with the Department of Motor Vehicles. Accessing the DMV signatures would make it possible to complete the entire voter registration process over the Internet.

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Analyst/Principal (0220) R. Baker	Date	Program Budget Manager Todd Jerue	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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**BILL ANALYSIS** Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

**BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)**

**Form DF-43  
BILL NUMBER**

**AUTHOR**

**AMENDMENT DATE**

R. Calderon

July 1, 2008

SB 381

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2008-2009	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	
0890/Secty State	SO	No		-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----			0001
2740/DMV	SO	No		-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----			0044
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0001	General Fund								
0044	Motor Vehicle Account, STF								