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AB-809 Local initiative measures: ballot printing specifications. (2015-2016)

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Assembly Bill No. 809

CHAPTER 337

An act to amend Section 13119 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

[Approved by Governor September 28, 2015. Filed with Secretary of State September 28, 2015.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 809, Obernolte. Local initiative measures: ballot printing specifications.

Existing law requires that the ballots used when voting on a proposed county, city, or district ordinance submitted to the voters as an initiative measure have printed on them specified text relating to the proposed ordinance and dictates the placement of that text.

This bill would also require that if the ordinance proposes to impose a tax or raise the rate of a tax to be levied, the ballot include in the statement of the ordinance the amount of money to be raised annually and the rate and duration of the tax to be levied. By imposing new duties on local elections officials, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

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.

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.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 13119 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

13119. (a) The ballots used when voting upon a proposed county, city, or district ordinance submitted to the voters of the respective local government as an initiative measure pursuant to Division 9 (commencing with Section 9000) shall have printed on them the words "Shall the ordinance (stating the nature thereof) be adopted?" Opposite the statement of the ordinance to be voted on, and to its right, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting squares. If a voter stamps a cross (+) in the voting square after the printed word "Yes," his or her vote shall be counted in favor of the adoption of the ordinance. If he or she stamps a cross (+) in the voting square after the printed word "No," his or her vote shall be counted against its adoption.

(b) If the proposed ordinance imposes a tax or raises the rate of a tax, the ballot shall include in the statement of the ordinance to be voted on the amount of money to be raised annually and the rate and duration of the tax to be levied.

SEC. 2. 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.