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AB-1494 Voting: marked ballots. (2015-2016)

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Assembly Bill No. 1494

CHAPTER 813

An act to amend Section 14291 of, and to repeal Section 14276 of, the Elections Code, relating to voting.

[Approved by Governor September 29, 2016. Filed with Secretary of State September 29, 2016.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1494, Levine. Voting: marked ballots.

Existing law prohibits a voter from showing his or her ballot to any person after it is marked in such a way as to reveal its contents. Existing law provides that a person who interferes or attempts to interfere with the secrecy of voting is guilty of a felony, and authorizes the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, or a local elections official to bring an action to impose additional civil penalties for committing those acts.

This bill would create an exception to that prohibition that would permit a voter to voluntarily disclose how he or she voted if that voluntary act does not violate any other law.

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

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

SECTION 1. Section 14276 of the Elections Code is repealed.

SEC. 2. Section 14291 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

14291. (a) After the ballot is marked, a voter shall not show it to any person in a manner that reveals its contents, except as provided in subdivision (b).

(b) A voter may voluntarily disclose how he or she voted if that voluntary act does not violate any other law.