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**AB-2558 Political Reform Act of 1974: San Bernardino County.** (2015-2016)

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**Assembly Bill No. 2558**

**CHAPTER 202**

An act to amend Section 83123.5 of the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

[ Approved by Governor August 26, 2016. Filed with Secretary of State August 26, 2016. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 2558, Steinorth. Political Reform Act of 1974: San Bernardino County.

Existing law, until January 1, 2018, authorizes the Fair Political Practices Commission, upon mutual agreement between the Commission and the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, to have primary responsibility for the impartial, effective administration, implementation, and enforcement of a local campaign finance reform ordinance of the County of San Bernardino, as specified.

This bill would repeal the January 1, 2018, sunset date, thereby extending the operation of these provisions indefinitely.

The bill would make legislative findings and declarations concerning the need for special legislation.

The Political Reform Act of 1974, an initiative measure, provides that the Legislature may amend the act to further the act's purposes upon a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of each house and compliance with specified procedural requirements.

This bill would declare that it furthers the purposes of the act.

Vote: 2/3 Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 83123.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:

**83123.5.** (a) Upon mutual agreement between the Commission and the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, the Commission is authorized to assume primary responsibility for the impartial, effective administration, implementation, and enforcement of a local campaign finance reform ordinance passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino. The Commission is authorized to be the civil prosecutor responsible for the civil enforcement of that local campaign finance reform ordinance in accordance with this title. As the civil prosecutor of the County of San Bernardino's local campaign finance reform ordinance, the Commission may do both of the following:

- (1) Investigate possible violations of the local campaign finance reform ordinance.
- (2) Bring administrative actions in accordance with this title and Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2.

(b) Any local campaign finance reform ordinance of the County of San Bernardino enforced by the Commission pursuant to this section shall comply with this title.

(c) The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino shall consult with the Commission prior to adopting and amending any local campaign finance reform ordinance that is subsequently enforced by the Commission pursuant to this section.

(d) (1) The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino and the Commission may enter into any agreements necessary and appropriate to carry out the provisions of this section, including agreements pertaining to any necessary reimbursement of state costs with county funds for costs incurred by the Commission in administering, implementing, or enforcing a local campaign finance reform ordinance pursuant to this section.

(2) An agreement entered into pursuant to this subdivision shall not contain any form of a cancellation fee, a liquidated damages provision, or other financial disincentive to the exercise of the right to terminate the agreement pursuant to subdivision (e), except that the Commission may require the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino to pay the Commission for services rendered and any other expenditures reasonably made by the Commission in anticipation of services to be rendered pursuant to the agreement in the event that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino terminates the agreement.

(e) The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino or the Commission may, at any time, by ordinance or resolution, terminate any agreement made pursuant to this section for the Commission to administer, implement, or enforce a local campaign finance reform ordinance or any provision thereof.

(f) If an agreement is entered into pursuant to this section, the Commission shall report to the Legislature regarding the performance of that agreement on or before January 1, 2017, and shall submit that report in compliance with Section 9795. The Commission shall develop the report in consultation with the County of San Bernardino. The report shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(1) The status of the agreement.

(2) The estimated annual cost savings, if any, for the County of San Bernardino.

(3) A summary of relevant annual performance metrics, including measures of utilization, enforcement, and customer satisfaction.

(4) Any public comments submitted to the Commission or the County of San Bernardino relative to the operation of the agreement.

(5) Any legislative recommendations.

**SEC. 2.** The Legislature finds and declares that a special law is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution because of the necessity to avoid an appearance of corruption in the County of San Bernardino's electoral process. The proposed local campaign finance reform ordinance is intended to make it more difficult for candidates and influential individuals and entities to engage in quid pro quo corruption, make the financing of campaigns for elective county offices more transparent, and to make more information, especially financial information, regarding candidates and their supporters available to voters. The continued enforcement of the local campaign finance reform ordinance by the Commission is needed to ensure the integrity of the ordinance.

**SEC. 3.** The Legislature finds and declares that this bill furthers the purposes of the Political Reform Act of 1974 within the meaning of subdivision (a) of Section 81012 of the Government Code.