AB-2665 Absentee ballots: processing. (2017-2018)

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Assembly Bill No. 2665

CHAPTER 282

An act to amend Section 15101 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

[Approved by Governor September 06, 2018. Filed with Secretary of State September 06, 2018.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2665, Salas. Absentee ballots: processing.

Existing law authorizes any jurisdiction having the necessary computer capability to start to process vote by mail ballots on the 10th business day before the election. Processing vote by mail ballots includes opening vote by mail ballot return envelopes, removing ballots, duplicating any damaged ballots, and preparing the ballots to be machine read, or machine reading them.

This bill would specify that machine reading of vote by mail ballots for these purposes includes processing write-in votes so that they can be tallied by the machine.

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

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

SECTION 1. Section 15101 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15101. (a) Any jurisdiction in which vote by mail ballots are cast may begin to process vote by mail ballot return envelopes beginning 29 days before the election. Processing vote by mail ballot return envelopes may include verifying the voter's signature on the vote by mail ballot return envelope pursuant to Section 3019 and updating voter history records.

(b) Any jurisdiction having the necessary computer capability may start to process vote by mail ballots on the 10th business day before the election. Processing vote by mail ballots includes opening vote by mail ballot return envelopes, removing ballots, duplicating any damaged ballots, and preparing the ballots to be machine read, or machine reading them, including processing write-in votes so that they can be tallied by the machine, but under no circumstances may a vote count be accessed or released until 8 p.m. on the day of the election. All other jurisdictions shall start to process vote by mail ballots at 5 p.m. on the day before the election.

(c) Results of any vote by mail ballot tabulation or count shall not be released before the close of the polls on the day of the election.