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SB-511 Elections: Secretary of State. (2017-2018)

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Senate Bill No. 511

CHAPTER 394

An act to amend Section 10 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

[Approved by Governor September 30, 2017. Filed with Secretary of State September 30, 2017.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 511, Stern. Elections: Secretary of State.

Existing law declares that the Secretary of State is the chief elections officer of the state and that he or she has prescribed powers and duties.

This bill would clarify the scope of those powers and duties and would require the Secretary of State to make reasonable efforts to promote voter registration and voting, as specified, especially in underrepresented communities.

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

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

SECTION 1. Section 10 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

10. (a) The Secretary of State is the chief elections officer of the state, and has the powers and duties specified in this code and Section 12172.5 of the Government Code.

(b) (1) The Secretary of State shall make reasonable efforts to do all of the following:

- (A) Promote voter registration to eligible voters.
- (B) Encourage eligible voters to vote.
- (C) Promote pre-registration to eligible citizens.
- (D) Promote civic learning and engagement to prepare students and new citizens to register to vote and to vote.

(2) In undertaking these efforts, the Secretary of State shall prioritize communities that have been historically underrepresented in voter registration or voting.