



**LEGISLATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT**

1831 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95811-4114
Tel: (916) 504-5800
TTY: (800) 719-5798
Intake Line: (800) 776-5746
Fax: (916) 504-5807
www.disabilityrightsca.org

May 24, 2019

Honorable Thomas Umberg
Chair, Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 3076
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 504 (Berman) as amended March 19, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Umberg:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 504**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee on June 4, 2019.

This bill would authorize a county elections official to exclude from this residency confirmation procedure a voter who has confirmed the voter's voter registration record on the internet website of the Secretary of State within the year preceding the start of the confirmation procedure. This provision would become operative on the date that the Secretary of State certifies that the state's statewide voter registration database has been modified to notify county elections officials when a voter confirms the voter's registration record on the internet website of the Secretary of State.

This bill would extend this contracting authority to the Secretary of State, and would require the Secretary of State to share this data with county elections officials through the statewide voter registration database.

This bill would make the former provision inoperative on January 1, 2020, and would repeal it as of January 1, 2029. The bill would require the county

elections official to send a forwardable address verification mailing to a voter whose registration status is inactive based on the voter's failure to confirm the voter's address as required by the alternate residency confirmation postcard. The bill would require the cancellation of the voter registration record of a voter who fails to respond to the address verification mailing and who does not offer to vote or vote at an election between the date of the mailing and two federal general elections after that date. By imposing new duties on county elections officials, the bill would impose a state mandated local program.

The bill would make other clarifying and nonsubstantive changes.

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 the statutory provisions noted above.

Many people with disabilities, especially vision disabilities, cannot use print. The Secretary of State's voter registration database is more accessible to them. This makes it much easier for a voter to confirm their address online.

For these reasons, DRC supports this bill. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Harris", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric Harris
Legislative Advocate 2
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Elections and Constitutional
Amendments Committee
Darren Chesin, Chief Consultant, Senate Elections and Constitutional
Amendments Committee

Honorable Marc Berman, California State Assembly
Ethan Jones, Chief Consultant, Office of Assembly Member Marc
Berman
Cory Botts, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee