

in Section 1 for which a claim for exemption for the 1973-74 fiscal year is not timely filed may have an exemption filed on its behalf for such year under Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 270) of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 1 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

SEC. 3. The Legislature finds that prior to January 1, 1973, state law authorized hospitals to be exempt from property taxation and that this act is necessitated as a result of a local agency voluntarily selecting a financing method which caused the hospital property to be subject to property tax and that such action should not result in a fiscal burden on the state. Therefore, notwithstanding Section 2229 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, no obligation is created by reason of Section 1 or 2 of this act for the reimbursement of local agencies for any loss of property tax revenues.

SEC. 4. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting such necessity are:

Some leased hospitals have inadvertently been excluded from the provisions of Section 231 of the Revenue and Taxation Code and otherwise qualified organizations have failed to file the required affidavit in support of the welfare exemption which is applicable to their property and, as a consequence, are now confronted with obligations which, if met, will substantially injure their ability to function effectively. This act will remedy the situation by, in effect, removing the procedural bar to the application of the exemption to such property. In doing so, it will fulfill the public policy of the state expressed through such exemption and thereby benefit the people generally.

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#### CHAPTER 453

*An act to amend Sections 27491 and 27491.4 of the Government Code, and to add Sections 218, 462, and 10253 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to deaths, and making an appropriation therefor.*

[Approved by Governor July 11, 1974 Filed with  
Secretary of State July 11, 1974]

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 27491 of the Government Code is amended to read:

27491. It shall be the duty of the coroner to inquire into and determine the circumstances, manner, and cause of all violent, sudden or unusual deaths; unattended deaths; deaths wherein the deceased has not been attended by a physician in the 20 days before death; deaths related to or following known or suspected

self-induced or criminal abortion; known or suspected homicide, suicide, or accidental poisoning; deaths known or suspected as resulting in whole or in part from or related to accident or injury either old or recent; deaths due to drowning, fire, hanging, gunshot, stabbing, cutting, exposure, starvation, alcoholism, drug addiction, strangulation, aspiration, or where the suspected cause of death is sudden infant death syndrome; death in whole or in part occasioned by criminal means; deaths associated with a known or alleged rape or crime against nature; deaths in prison or while under sentence; deaths known or suspected as due to contagious disease and constituting a public hazard; deaths from occupational diseases or occupational hazards; deaths under such circumstances as to afford a reasonable ground to suspect that the death was caused by the criminal act of another, or any deaths reported by physicians or other persons having knowledge of death for inquiry by coroner. Inquiry in this section does not include those investigative functions usually performed by other law enforcement agencies.

In any case in which the coroner conducts an inquiry pursuant to this section, he shall personally sign the certificate of death.

SEC. 2. Section 27491 of the Government Code is amended to read:

27491. It shall be the duty of the coroner to inquire into and determine the circumstances, manner, and cause of all violent, sudden or unusual deaths; unattended deaths; deaths wherein the deceased has not been attended by a physician in the 20 days before death; deaths related to or following known or suspected self-induced or criminal abortion; known or suspected homicide, suicide, or accidental poisoning; deaths known or suspected as resulting in whole or in part from or related to accident or injury either old or recent, deaths due to drowning, fire, hanging, gunshot, stabbing, cutting, exposure, starvation, acute alcoholism, drug addiction, strangulation, aspiration, or where the suspected cause of death is sudden infant death syndrome, death in whole or in part occasioned by criminal means; deaths associated with a known or alleged rape or crime against nature; deaths in prison or while under sentence; deaths known or suspected as due to contagious disease and constituting a public hazard; deaths from occupational diseases or occupational hazards; deaths under such circumstances as to afford a reasonable ground to suspect that the death was caused by the criminal act of another, or any deaths reported by physicians or other persons having knowledge of death for inquiry by coroner. Inquiry in this section does not include those investigative functions usually performed by other law enforcement agencies.

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SEC. 3. Section 27491 of the Government Code is amended to read:

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In any case in which the coroner conducts an inquiry pursuant to this section, the coroner or a deputy shall personally sign the certificate of death.

The coroner shall have discretion to determine the extent of inquiry to be made into any death falling within the provisions of this section, and if inquiry determines that the physician of record has sufficient knowledge to reasonably state the cause of a death occurring under natural circumstances, the coroner may authorize that physician to sign the certificate of death.

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SEC. 5. Section 27491.4 of the Government Code is amended to read:

27491.4. For purposes of inquiry the coroner shall, within 24 hours or as soon as feasible thereafter, where the suspected cause of death is sudden infant death syndrome unless the infant's physician of record certifies sudden infant death syndrome as the cause of death and a parent objects to an autopsy, and, in all other cases, the coroner may, in his discretion, take possession of the body, which shall include the authority to exhume such body, order it removed to a convenient place, and make or cause to be made a post mortem examination or autopsy thereon, and make or cause to be made an analysis of the stomach, stomach contents, blood, organs, fluids, or tissues of the body. The detailed medical findings resulting from an inspection of the body or autopsy by an examining physician shall be either reduced to writing or permanently preserved on recording discs or other similar recording media, shall include all positive and negative findings pertinent to establishing the cause of death in accordance with medicolegal practice and this, along with the written opinions and conclusions of the examining physician, shall be included in the coroner's record of the death. He shall have the right to retain only such tissues of the body removed at the time of the autopsy as may, in his opinion, be necessary or advisable to the inquiry into the case, or for the verification of his findings. No person may be present during the performance of a coroner's autopsy without the express consent of the coroner.

SEC. 6. Section 218 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

218. The state department shall keep each county health officer advised of the most current knowledge relating to the nature and causes of sudden infant death syndrome. Annually, on or before April 1 of each year, the state department shall submit a report to the Legislature specifying the number of autopsies and post mortem examinations performed pursuant to Section 27491.4 of the Government Code during the prior year, where the suspected cause of death was sudden infant death syndrome. Such report shall also

specify the number of such cases in which the cause of death was determined by the coroner to be sudden infant death syndrome.

SEC. 7. Section 462 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

462. Upon being informed by the coroner pursuant to Section 10253 of any case in which sudden infant death syndrome is the provisional cause of death, the county health officer or his designated agent, after consultation with the infant's physician of record, shall immediately contact the person or persons who had custody and control of the infant and explain to such persons the nature and causes of sudden infant death syndrome to the extent that current knowledge permits.

The county health officer shall perform the duties required by this section throughout the county, including such portion of the county which is within any city.

SEC. 8. Section 10253 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

10253. In any case involving an infant under the age of one year where the gross autopsy results in a provisional diagnosis of sudden infant death syndrome, the coroner shall, within 24 hours of the gross autopsy, notify the county health officer.

SEC. 9. (a) The sum of seventeen thousand five hundred fifty dollars (\$17,550) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the State Controller for payments to local agencies pursuant to Section 2231 of the Revenue and Taxation Code to reimburse them for costs incurred pursuant to this act. This appropriation shall be available until June 30, 1976.

Each local agency desiring reimbursement for such costs shall submit to the State Controller, within 45 days after January 1, 1975, a claim for reimbursement based upon its estimate of the units of work to be performed during the 1974-75 fiscal year and a reasonable amount for nonrecurring administrative and other exceptional expenses for said fiscal year. For the 1975-76 fiscal year, each local agency shall submit its claim to the State Controller by October 31 and shall include a certification of the actual number of units of work performed during the 1974-75 fiscal year and an estimate of the number of units of work to be performed during the 1975-76 fiscal year.

Computation of amounts claimed for units of work shall be on the basis of a unit cost in the amount of thirteen dollars (\$13) per contact with the custodian of a sudden infant death syndrome victim, which shall be the unit of work. The State Controller shall pay each claimant as reimbursement for units of work an amount determined by multiplying such unit cost of work by the number of units of work estimated or certified as having been performed by the claimant. Any payment, adjustment, or audit of claims by the State Controller shall be on the basis of units of work, rounded to the nearest whole unit, and at the unit costs specified herein rather than actual costs.

The State Controller may reduce any claim which he determines

is excessive or unreasonable and may audit the records of any local agency to verify the actual units of work performed. The State Controller shall make any adjustments necessary to correct for underpayments or overpayments which occurred in the 1974-75 fiscal year. Claims for reimbursement shall be prepared in the form, and payments made at the time, specified by the State Controller. No claim or amendment to a claim shall be accepted by the State Controller after the time prescribed herein for filing of claims. In the event that the amount appropriated for reimbursement purposes pursuant to this act is not sufficient to pay all claims filed timely, the State Controller shall pay such claims on a pro rata basis and notify the Director of Finance of the deficiency.

SEC. 10. It is the intent of the Legislature that if this bill and Senate Bill No. 1733 or Senate Bill No. 2233, or both, are chaptered and become effective on or before January 1, 1975, each of the bills amend Section 27491 of the Government Code, and this bill is chaptered last, that amendments proposed by each of the bills which are chaptered be given effect as follows:

(1) If this bill and Senate Bill No. 1733 are both chaptered and become effective on or before January 1, 1975, both bills amend Section 27491 of the Government Code, but Senate Bill No. 2233 is not chaptered or as chaptered does not amend that section, and this bill is chaptered after Senate Bill No. 1733, the amendments proposed by both bills shall be given effect and incorporated in Section 27491 in the form set forth in Section 2 of this act. Therefore, if this bill and Senate Bill No. 1733 are both chaptered and become effective on or before January 1, 1975, both bills amend Section 27491, this bill is chaptered after Senate Bill No. 1733, and Senate Bill No. 2233 is not chaptered or as chaptered does not amend that section, Section 2 of this act shall be operative and Sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act shall not become operative.

(2) If this bill and Senate Bill No. 2233 are both chaptered and become effective on or before January 1, 1975, both bills amend Section 27491 of the Government Code, but Senate Bill No. 1733 is not chaptered or as chaptered does not amend that section, and this bill is chaptered after Senate Bill No. 2233, the amendments proposed by both bills shall be given effect and incorporated in Section 27491 in the form set forth in Section 3 of this act. Therefore, if this bill and Senate Bill No. 2233 are both chaptered and become effective on or before January 1, 1975, both bills amend Section 27491, this bill is chaptered after Senate Bill No. 2233, and Senate Bill No. 1733 is not chaptered or as chaptered does not amend that section, Section 3 shall be operative and Sections 1, 2 and 4 of this act shall not become operative.

(3) If this bill and Senate Bill No. 1733 and Senate Bill No. 2233 are all chaptered and become effective on or before January 1, 1975, all three bills amend Section 27491 of the Government Code, and this bill is chaptered after Senate Bill No. 1733 and Senate Bill No. 2233, the amendments proposed by all three bills shall be given effect and

incorporated in Section 27491 in the form set forth in Section 4 of this act. Therefore, if this bill and Senate Bill No. 1733 and Senate Bill No. 2233 are all chaptered and become effective on or before January 1, 1975, all three bills amend Section 27491 of the Government Code, and this bill is chaptered after Senate Bill No. 1733 and Senate Bill No. 2233, Section 4 of this act shall be operative and Sections 1, 2 and 3 of this act shall not become operative.

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#### CHAPTER 454

*An act to amend Sections 6555 and 18603 of the Elections Code, and to add Section 16100.6 to the Government Code, relating to filing fees, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.*

[Approved by Governor July 11, 1974 Filed with  
Secretary of State July 11, 1974 ]

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 6555 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

6555. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, a candidate may submit a petition containing signatures of registered voters in lieu of a filing fee as follows:

(1) For the office of California State Assembly, 1,500 signatures.  
(2) For the office of California State Senate and the United States House of Representatives, 3,000 signatures.

(3) For candidates running for statewide office, 10,000 signatures.

(4) For all other offices for which a filing fee is required, if the number of registered voters in the district in which he seeks nomination is 2,000 or more, a candidate may submit a petition containing four signatures of registered voters for each dollar of the filing fee, or 10 percent of the total of registered voters in the district in which he seeks nomination, whichever is less.

(5) For all other offices for which a filing fee is required, if the number of registered voters in the district in which he seeks nomination is less than 2,000, a candidate may submit a petition containing four signatures of registered voters for each dollar of the filing fee, or 20 percent of the total of registered voters in the district in which he seeks nomination, whichever is less.

(6) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a candidate seeking the nomination of a qualified party with whom he is registered, the registered voters of which who were eligible to vote at the last statewide election constituted less than 5 percent of all registered voters eligible to vote at the last statewide election, may submit a petition containing signatures of 10 percent of the registered voters of that party in the district in which he seeks