To: Senate Bill No. 1239 File No. Cal. No.

(As Amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A")

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2013."

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2011) (a) There is established the Joint Office of Government Accountability and its members shall include the Office of State Ethics, as established in section 1-80 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the State Elections Enforcement Commission, as established in section 9-7a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and the Freedom of Information Commission, as established in section 1-205 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

(b) The Joint Office of Government Accountability shall not be construed to be a board or commission within the meaning of section 4-9a of the general statutes.
(c) Pursuant to sections 1-81a, 1-205a and 9-7c of the general statutes and subsection (d) of section 502 of this act, the appropriations recommended by each member of the Joint Office of Government Accountability and the Government Accountability Business Board, established pursuant to section 502 of this act, shall be the estimates of expenditure requirements transmitted to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the recommended adjustments and revisions of such estimates shall be the recommended adjustments and revisions, if any, transmitted by said members and business board to the Office of Policy and Management. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the Governor shall not reduce allotment requisitions or allotments in force concerning the members and the business board.

(d) The members of the Joint Office of Government Accountability shall have independent decision-making authority and shall retain autonomy with respect to the exercise of any quasi-judicial, rule-making or regulatory authority, budgeting, licensing and policy-making functions. With the exception of duties related to functions provided by the Government Accountability Business Board, nothing in this section shall be construed to limit, restrict or derogate any power, right, authority, duty or responsibility of any member entity contained in any other provision of the general statutes.

Sec. 502. (NEW) (Effective February 1, 2012) (a) There is established a Government Accountability Business Board which shall be responsible for the business and fiscal affairs of the members of the Joint Office of Government Accountability. The business board shall assess ways and means to further streamline and improve the operation of said business and fiscal affairs.

(b) Members of the business board shall be the executive director, or his or her designee, of each of the following: The Office of State Ethics, the Freedom of Information Commission and the State Elections Enforcement Commission. A majority of the members of the business board shall constitute a quorum and all actions shall require the
affirmative vote of a majority. Any consideration of a matter by the business board, and any decision made pursuant to this section may be made electronically, in writing or in a method determined by the business board, but shall not be considered a "meeting" pursuant to subdivision (2) of section 1-200 of the general statutes.

(c) The Government Accountability Business Board may employ personnel and clerical assistance it may require for the discharge of its duties, within the limits of its appropriated funds and in accordance with procedures established by the business board.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the appropriations recommended for the business board shall be the estimates of expenditure requirements transmitted to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management by the board and the recommended adjustments and revisions of such estimates shall be the recommended adjustments and revisions, if any, transmitted by the board to the Office of Policy and Management. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the Governor shall not reduce allotment requisitions or allotments in force concerning the board.

(e) The Government Accountability Business Board shall not be construed to be a board or commission within the meaning of section 4-9a of the general statutes.

Sec. 503. Subsection (a) of section 1-80 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2011):

(a) There shall be established, as a member of the Joint Office of Government Accountability, an Office of State Ethics that shall be an independent state agency and shall constitute a successor agency to the State Ethics Commission, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d and 4-39. Said office shall consist of an executive director, general counsel, ethics enforcement officer and such other staff as hired by the executive director. Within the Office of State Ethics, there shall be the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board that shall consist of nine
members, appointed as follows: One member shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one member by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one member by the majority leader of the Senate, one member by the minority leader of the Senate, one member by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, one member by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and three members by the Governor. Members of the board shall serve for four-year terms which shall commence on October 1, 2005, except that members first appointed shall have the following terms: The Governor shall appoint two members for a term of three years and one member for a term of four years; the majority leader of the House of Representatives, minority leader of the House of Representatives and the speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint one member for a term of two years; the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the Senate shall each appoint one member for a term of four years. No individual shall be appointed to more than one four-year term as a member of the board, provided, members may not continue in office once their term has expired and members first appointed may not be reappointed. No more than five members shall be members of the same political party. The members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate and the majority leader of the House of Representatives shall be selected from a list of nominees proposed by a citizen group having an interest in ethical government. The majority leader of the Senate and the majority leader of the House of Representatives shall each determine the citizen group from which each will accept such nominations. One member appointed by the Governor shall be selected from a list of nominees proposed by a citizen group having an interest in ethical government. The Governor shall determine the citizen group from which the Governor will accept such nominations.

Sec. 504. Subsection (a) of section 1-205 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2011):

(a) There shall be established, as a member of the Joint Office of
Government Accountability, a Freedom of Information Commission consisting of five members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of either house of the General Assembly, who shall serve for terms of four years from the July first of the year of their appointment, except that of the members appointed prior to and serving on July 1, 1977, one shall serve for a period of six years from July 1, 1975, one shall serve for a period of four years from July 1, 1975, and one shall serve for a period of six years from July 1, 1977. Of the two new members first appointed after July 1, 1977, one shall serve from the date of such appointment until June 30, 1980, and one shall serve from the date of such appointment until June 30, 1982. No more than three members shall be members of the same political party.

Sec. 505. Subsection (a) of section 9-7a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2011):

(a) There is established, as a member of the Joint Office of Government Accountability, a State Elections Enforcement Commission to consist of five members, not more than two of whom shall be members of the same political party and at least one of whom shall not be affiliated with any political party. Of the members first appointed hereunder, one shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives and shall hold office for a term of one year from July 1, 1974; one shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate and shall hold office for a term of three years from said July first; one shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives and shall hold office for a term of one year from said July first; one shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate and shall hold office for a term of three years from said July first, and one shall be appointed by the Governor, provided that such member shall not be affiliated with any political party, and shall hold office for a term of five years from said July first. Thereafter, members shall be appointed for terms of five years from July first in the year of their appointment and shall be appointed by the person holding the same office as was held by the person making the original appointment.
appointment, provided any person chosen to fill a vacancy shall be
appointed only for the unexpired term of the member whom he shall
succeed. All appointments shall be made with the consent of the state
Senate and House of Representatives, provided the initial appointees
may serve without confirmation from July 1, 1974, subject to approval
at the next regular session of the General Assembly. No person who
has served within the previous three years as a public official, other
than a member of the State Elections Enforcement Commission, or who
has served within the previous three years as a political party officer,
shall be appointed to membership on the commission. For purposes of
this subsection the term "public official" means an individual who
holds or has held a state, district or municipal office as defined in
section 9-372 but shall not include a justice of the peace or a notary
public and the term "political party officer" means an officer or
member of a national committee of a political party, state central or
town committee, or any person employed by any such committee for
compensation. The commission shall elect one of its members to serve
as chairperson and another member to serve as vice-chairperson. Each
member of the commission shall be compensated at the rate of two
hundred dollars per day for any day on which he participates in a
regular commission meeting or hearing, and shall be paid by the state
for his reasonable expenses, including necessary stenographic and
clerical help."