



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT: Kate Folmar
(916) 653-6575**

Education Initiative Enters Circulation

Education. Modified Definition of Discriminatory Practices in Public Schools. Statute.

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponent of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for her measure.

The Attorney General prepares the legal title and summary that is required to appear on initiative petitions. When the official language is complete, the Attorney General forwards it to the proponent and to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponent and to county elections officials, and the initiative may be circulated for signatures. The Attorney General's official title and summary for this measure is as follows:

EDUCATION. MODIFIED DEFINITION OF DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. STATUTE. Removes statutory language prohibiting teaching or school activity that “promotes a discriminatory bias” against persons based on specified characteristics. Inserts new language prohibiting teaching or school activity that “reflects adversely upon” persons based on certain characteristics, including race, sex, color, creed, disability, national origin, religion or ancestry. New language excludes sexual orientation, gender identity or behavior, or association with persons with specified characteristics. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: This measure would have no direct fiscal effect on state or local government. (Initiative 08-0008.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1339 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 08-0008.

The proponent for this measure, Karen England, must collect signatures of 433,971 registered voters – the number equal to 5% of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election – in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by August 29, 2008.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (916) 498-1940.

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