



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

Arbitration. Health Care Disputes. Initiative Statute

SAN FRANCISCO --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced today that the proponent of a new initiative has received clearance to begin collecting petition signatures for his measure.

The Attorney General's official title and summary is as follows:

ARBITRATION. HEALTH CARE DISPUTES. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Prohibits health care service plans from requiring alternative dispute resolution as a condition of enrollment, and permits voluntary participation only after written disclosure signed by each enrollee. Requires Department of Managed Health Care to establish panel of arbitrators, and randomly assign arbitrator to each case. Permits judicial appeal of arbitrator's decisions. Requires plans to submit reports to Department regarding completed arbitrations, litigation, and settlements, and maintain records for five years. Unless otherwise confidential, Department must make the records public on Internet and available at Department. Provisions also apply to health and disability insurance contracts.

The proponent, Charles Phillips, MD, must collect 373,816 signatures of registered voters for his measure. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions is Monday, February 2, 2004. The proponent can be reached at (559) 322-1446.

For a copy of the complete text, title & summary, and circulation calendar, please contact the Secretary of State's Press Office at (916) 653-6575.

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