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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

Tribal Gaming Compact Renegotiation. Non-Tribal Commercial Gambling Expansion. Revenues, Tax Exemptions. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

SACRAMENTO, CA --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced today that the Attorney General has prepared the official title and summary of a new initiative measure. Based on the official summary date, the Secretary of State prepares and notifies proponent of calendar filing deadlines, which appear below.

The Attorney General's official title and summary as received by the Secretary of State is as follows:

TRIBAL GAMING COMPACT RENEGOTIATION. NON-TRIBAL COMMERCIAL GAMBLING EXPANSION. REVENUES, TAX EXEMPTIONS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Authorizes Governor to renegotiate tribal-state compacts to require that tribes: Pay 25% of slot machine/gaming device revenues to government fund; comply with multiple state laws; accept state court jurisdiction. Unless all compacted tribes accept terms within 90 days, or if terms determined unlawful, authorizes 16 specified non-tribal racetracks and gambling establishments to operate 30,000 slot machines/gaming devices, paying 33% of revenues to fund public safety, regulatory, social programs. Provides exemption from future state/local tax increases. Limits new tribal gaming. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: This measure would have the following major fiscal effect: Increased local government revenues would be used primarily for additional firefighting, police, and child protective services.

The proponents, Louis J. Blanas and Lee Baca, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters, 8 percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, for their measure. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions is June 24, 2004. The initiative proponents can be reached at 925-283-0581.

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.