



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

*Driver's Licenses. College Expenses. Public Benefits. Eligibility of Illegal Aliens.
Initiative Constitutional Amendment.*

SACRAMENTO, CA --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced today that the proponents of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for their measure.

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

DRIVER'S LICENSES. COLLEGE EXPENSES. PUBLIC BENEFITS. ELIGIBILITY OF ILLEGAL ALIENS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

- Prohibits aliens unlawfully in United States from obtaining:
 - a driver's license or government identification card;
 - a college fee or tuition exemption;
 - government grant, contract, loan;
 - a professional or commercial license;
 - or any other public benefit not required by federal law.
- Authorizes any state citizen to sue to enforce prohibitions;
- Requires State to defend initiative;
- Provides costs and attorney's fees to prevailing party.
- Makes any elected or government official who willfully violates the prohibitions personally liable for litigation costs, attorney's fees, and actual damages.

The summary of the estimate by the Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of the fiscal impact on state and local governments indicates that this measure would have the following major fiscal effects: Potentially major one-time costs, with annual costs in the tens of millions of dollars, to verify citizenship or immigration status of persons receiving public benefits. Program savings to the state and local governments due to reduced expenditures for certain public services. These savings could be in the low hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

The proponents, Senator Richard Mountjoy (Ret.), Mike Spence, Victor Valenzuela, Mark Wyland and Jeff Evans, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters, which is eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions is February 22, 2005. The initiative proponents can be reached at 626-357-8237.

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.