NEWS RELEASE
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

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Four Proposed Initiatives Enter Circulation

1. *School Employment Decisions. Employee Performance. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.*
2. *Electric Service Providers. Regulation. Initiative Statute.*
3. *Juvenile Courts. Child's Mental Health Treatment. Parental Consent. Initiative Statute.*
4. *Mid-Decade District Reapportionment. Congressional Exception. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.*

SACRAMENTO --- The Secretary of State's Office announced today that the proponents of four new initiatives have received clearance to begin collecting petition signatures for their measures.

The Attorney General's official titles and summaries are as follows:

SCHOOL EMPLOYMENT DECISIONS. EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Requires employment decisions, including hiring, compensating, promoting, demoting, terminating, transferring and assigning employees within school district to be based solely on employee performance and needs of the district and pupils, and not on seniority. Supercedes other, existing reasons authorizing teachers' dismissal. Requires assessment of school administrators and teachers to be based on annual performance evaluation and improvements in pupil academic achievement, measured by state-adopted standardized tests. Requires district governing boards to adopt performance criteria. Prohibits granting tenure unless school employee's last 5 performance evaluations were satisfactory. Affects new collective bargaining agreements.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Unknown impact on school district teacher salary costs due to new performance-based evaluation system (that would affect all employment decisions, including hiring, compensating and firing). Total salary costs could increase or decrease, and fiscal impacts could vary significantly by district depending on local implementation decisions.

The proponent, former Assemblyman Tony Strickland, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters, equal to eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, in order to qualify his measure. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions for this measure is August 15, 2005. The initiative proponent can be reached at 15486 Kernvale Avenue, Moorpark, CA 93021. No phone number was provided.

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ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS. REGULATION. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

Subjects electric service providers, as defined, to control and regulation by California Public Utilities Commission. Imposes restrictions on electricity customers' ability to switch from private utilities to other electric providers. Provides that registration by electric service providers with Commission constitutes providers' consent to regulation. Requires all retail electric sellers, instead of just private utilities, to increase renewable energy by 2010, instead of current requirement of 2017. Imposes duties on Commission, Legislature and electrical providers.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Annual state cost of up to $4 million for regulatory activities of the California Public Utilities Commission. These costs would be fully offset by fee revenues. Unknown impact on state and local costs and revenues, as the measure's impact on retail electricity is uncertain.

The proponents, Robert Finkelstein and Michel Peter Florio, both of The Utility Reform Network, must collect 373,816 signatures of registered voters, equal to five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, in order to qualify their measure. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions for this measure is August 15, 2005. The initiative proponents can be reached at 415-929-8876.

JUVENILE COURTS. CHILD'S MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT. PARENTAL CONSENT. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

Provides that no child shall be subjected to juvenile courts jurisdiction, or be declared a ward of the court, because the child's parent/guardian refused to administer psychiatric medication or permit mental health evaluation or treatment. Prohibits public schools from requiring child to receive mental health evaluation or treatment absent informed written consent, as defined, from both parents or guardians. Imposes misdemeanor criminal penalties on child welfare service employees and public education employees who violate the measure. Applies to pending proceedings; criminal penalties apply prospectively.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Unknown savings in foster care and mental health. Unknown costs to public education, the courts, and the criminal justice system. Unknown, but potentially significant, long-term costs to schools, local governments, and the state to the extent that students do not receive mental health services as a result of this measure.

The proponent, William Tower of America Family Rights Association, must collect 373,816 signatures of registered voters, equal to five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, in order to qualify his measure. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions for this measure is August 15, 2005. The initiative proponent can be reached at 510-346-6200.

MID-DECADE DISTRICT REAPPORTIONMENT. CONGRESSIONAL EXCEPTION. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Amends state Constitution's redistricting process. Requires three-member retired judge panel, selected by legislative leaders, to adopt new redistricting plan for Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts when measure passes, and for Congressional, Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts thereafter following national census. Panel must consider legislative, public proposals/comments and hold public hearings. Redistricting plan effective immediately upon adoption by panel and filing with Secretary of State. Specifies time for judicial review of adopted redistricting plan; if plan fails to conform to requirements, court may order new plan.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: One-time state redistricting costs, probably totaling a few million dollars, with comparable savings for each redistricting effort after 2010 (once every ten years). These costs and savings would be accommodated within the Legislature's existing spending limit.

The proponent, David A. Gilliard of Gilliard, Blanning, Wysocki & Associates, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters, equal to eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, in order to qualify his measure. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions for this measure is August 15, 2005. The initiative proponent can be reached at 916-444-4502.

For a copy of the complete texts, titles & summaries, and circulation calendars, please contact the Secretary of State's Press Office at 916-653-6575.

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