



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE BRUCE MCPHERSON

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Contact: Nghia Nguyen Demovic
916-653-6575

Three Proposed Initiatives Enter Circulation

1. *Workers' Compensation. Option to Sue. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statutes.*
2. *Workers' Compensation. Option to Sue. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statutes.*
3. *Workers' Compensation. Benefits. Choice of Medical Provider. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statutes.*

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson announced today that the proponent of three new initiatives may begin collecting petition signatures for her measures. The proponent for these measures, Danielle L. Viohl, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters, for each measure, which is eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 general election. The 150-day deadline to collect signatures is July 17, 2006. The initiative proponent can be reached at 510-346-6200.

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

WORKERS' COMPENSATION. OPTION TO SUE. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTES.

Provides option, 90 days after injury, for injured employee to sue employer or insurer for civil damages, rather than continue in workers' compensation system. Allow injured employees to choose their own medical providers, with treatment paid by employer or employer's insurer. Findings of selected provider are presumed correct unless rebutted by preponderance of medical opinion. Authorizes employee-selected medical provider to sue employer or insurer if provider's bills are not paid within 60 days. Repeals provision allowing employers and insurers to contract with pharmacies to provide medicines to employees.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Annual costs-potentially in the mid to high hundreds of millions of dollars-for state and local government work-related injuries. (SA2005RF0142.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1199 and the Attorney General's tracking number is SA2005RF0142.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION. OPTION TO SUE. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTES.

Provides option, 90 days after injury, for certain private sector, non-union injured employees to sue employer or insurer for damages, rather than continue in workers' compensation system. Allows injured employees to choose their own medical providers, with treatment paid by employer or employer's insurer. Findings of selected provider are presumed correct, unless rebutted by preponderance of medical opinion. Authorizes employee-selected medical provider to sue employer/insurer if provider's bills are not paid within 60 days. Repeals provision allowing employers/insurers to contract with pharmacies to provide medicines to employees.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director or Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Annual costs-potentially in the low to mid hundreds of millions of dollars-for state and local government workers' compensation. (SA2005RF0143.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1200 [REVISED] and the Attorney General's tracking number is SA2005RF0143.

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION. BENEFITS. CHOICE OF MEDICAL PROVIDER.
INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTES.**

Increases workers' compensation weekly permanent partial disability payments and death benefit levels in January 2007, and thereafter authorizes annual increases in death benefits tied to state average weekly wage. Allows injured employees to choose their own medical providers, with treatment paid by employer or employer's insurer. Findings of selected providers are presumed correct unless rebutted by preponderance of medical opinion. Repeals provision allowing employers and insurers to contract with pharmacies to provide medicines to employees.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Annual costs-potentially in the mid to high hundreds of millions of dollars-for the state and local government workers' compensation. (SA2005RF0144.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1201 [REVISED] and the Attorney General's tracking number is SA2005RF0144.

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