



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Child Abuse and Neglect Initiative Enters Circulation

Training for Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect. Statutory Amendment.

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponent of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for her measure.

The Attorney General prepares the legal title and summary that is required to appear on initiative petitions. When the official language is complete, the Attorney General forwards it to the proponent and to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponent and to county elections officials, and the initiative may be circulated for signatures. The Attorney General's official title and summary for this measure is as follows:

TRAINING FOR MANDATED REPORTERS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT. STATUTORY AMENDMENT. Requires school districts and county offices of education that employ persons who are required by law to report child abuse to train all employees and such training shall include the procedure for identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Cost to Schools. Potential one-time costs ranging from less than \$1 million to \$45 million and potential ongoing costs ranging from less than \$1 million to \$4 million. Child Welfare and Foster Care Costs. Potential increased costs ranging from about \$0.3 million to nearly \$3 million for the state and ranging from about \$0.2 million to about \$2 million for counties. Costs to State Courts and Local Law Enforcement. Potential increased costs of less than \$1 million to state courts and local law enforcement agencies. (Initiative 07-0012.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1246 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0012.

The proponent for this measure, Diana Evans, must collect the signatures of 433,971 registered voters – the number equal to 5% of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election – in order to qualify the measure for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by October 29, 2007.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (707) 643-3154.

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