



DEBRA BOWEN

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Third Health Care Initiative Enters Circulation

Health Care. Constitutional Amendment.

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponent of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for his 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 the measure is as follows:

HEALTH CARE. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Directs Legislature to establish a "California Health Security Plan". Plan shall be free to all members and fully funded by "general revenue and sources" as directed by Legislature. Requires plan to pay for all medical, mental health, dental and vision care. Directs plan to provide equal care for all members. Makes all residents who have resided in state for ten months of previous year eligible for plan. Provides for some residents to be automatically enrolled. Requires privacy of medical records of members. Requires Legislature to establish an elected oversight board. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Net unknown costs to state and local government, potentially in the low tens of billions of dollars; these costs would be greater or lesser depending on actions taken by the Governor or Legislature in structuring the health coverage expansion program. (Initiative 07-0055.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1300 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0055.

The proponent for this measure, James R. Smith, must collect signatures of 694,354 registered voters – the number equal to 8% of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election – in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by May 5, 2008.

The initiative proponent can be reached at P.O. Box 644, Venice, California 90294. No phone number was provided.

For more information about the other two health care initiatives proposed earlier this year, go to http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_j.htm

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