



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

DB07:105

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 11, 2007

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Dietary Supplements Tax Deduction Initiative Enters Circulation

State Income Tax Deduction for Dietary Supplements and Certain Foods. Statute.

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:

STATE INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS AND CERTAIN FOODS. STATUTE. Allows medical expense deductions on state income tax returns for costs of dietary supplements and food for special dietary needs. Dietary supplements include tablets, capsules, powder, and measured doses of liquid that contain vitamins, minerals, herbs, amino acids, or dietary substances, but do not include conventional food products. Foods for special dietary needs are those consumed due to a medical condition, for supplementing the diet, or as the sole item of the diet. Medical condition includes disease, pregnancy, lactation, infancy, food allergy, overweight and underweight. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Annual ongoing reduction in state revenues of approximately \$200 million, assuming the measure's effect is only to add a new above-the-line deduction for dietary supplements and foods for special dietary needs. (Initiative 07-0072.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1301 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0072.

The proponent for this measure, Bryan Tallman, must collect 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 it for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by May 9, 2008.

The initiative proponents can be reached at (408) 348-6542.

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