



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

DB09:040

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Drug and Alcohol Testing Initiative Enters Circulation

Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing for Members of the Legislature. Initiative Statute.

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponents of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for their 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 proponents and to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponents 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:

MANDATORY DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Requires all legislators elected subsequent to passage of this initiative to be tested for the illegal use of drugs and the “habitual use of alcohol.” Prevents a legislator who tests positive from performing his or her official duties or from getting paid until that legislator completes a substance abuse program at his or her own expense. Requires a legislator to permanently forfeit his or her office upon a second positive test. Provides exception for use of medicinal marijuana under a doctor's care. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Probably no significant change in state costs in most years. (09-0014.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1367 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0014.

The proponents for this measure, Dorothy Cummings and Gary Ellis, 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 proponents have 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by December 10, 2009.

The initiative proponents can be reached at P.O. Box 969, Lake Arrowhead, California 92352. No phone number was provided.

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