FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Seven Hospital Tax Initiatives Enter Circulation

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponents of seven new initiatives may begin collecting petition signatures for their measures.

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 first measure is as follows:

PROHIBITS STATE FROM TAXING COMMUNITY HOSPITALS TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR MEDI-CAL UNLESS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS ARE MET. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Prohibits state from imposing tax on community hospitals to obtain federal Medi-Cal funds unless tax proceeds are used to obtain federal matching funds of a specified amount. Requires depositing proceeds into trust fund subject to audit. Requires using proceeds to reimburse state for Medi-Cal collection and administration costs, make payments to hospitals, provide health coverage for low-income children, and increase Medi-Cal reimbursements to hospitals. Prohibits using proceeds to replace specified existing funding. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: This measure could affect the ability of the state to impose and collect revenues related to hospital charges and additional federal reimbursements. This could have a further impact on local government finances, particularly counties. In some situations, this measure could result in greater pressures for additional state spending than would otherwise occur. (09-0073.)

The Secretary of State’s tracking number for this measure is 1422 and the Attorney General’s tracking number is 09-0073.

The Attorney General’s official title and summary for the second measure is as follows:

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PROHIBITS STATE FROM TAXING COMMUNITY HOSPITALS TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR MEDI-CAL UNLESS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS ARE MET. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Prohibits state from imposing tax on community hospitals to obtain federal Medi-Cal funds unless tax proceeds are used to obtain federal matching funds of a specified amount. Requires depositing proceeds into trust fund subject to audit. Requires using proceeds to reimburse state for Medi-Cal collection and administration costs, make payments to hospitals, provide health coverage for low-income children, and increase Medi-Cal reimbursements to hospitals. Prohibits using proceeds to replace specified existing funding. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: This measure could affect the ability of the state to impose and collect revenues related to hospital charges and additional federal reimbursements. This could have a further impact on local government finances, particularly counties. In some situations, this measure could result in greater pressures for additional state spending than would otherwise occur. (09-0081.)

The Secretary of State’s tracking number for this measure is 1426 and the Attorney General’s tracking number is 09-0081.

The Attorney General’s official title and summary for the third measure is as follows:

PROHIBITS STATE FROM TAXING COMMUNITY HOSPITALS TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR MEDI-CAL UNLESS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS ARE MET. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Prohibits state from imposing tax on community hospitals to obtain federal Medi-Cal funds unless tax proceeds are used to obtain federal matching funds of a specified amount. Requires depositing proceeds into trust fund subject to audit. Requires using proceeds to reimburse state for Medi-Cal collection and administration costs, make payments to hospitals, provide health coverage for low-income children, and increase Medi-Cal reimbursements to hospitals. Prohibits using proceeds to replace specified existing funding. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: This measure could affect the ability of the state to impose and collect revenues related to hospital charges and additional federal reimbursements. This could have a further impact on local government finances, particularly counties. In some situations, this measure could result in greater pressures for additional state spending than would otherwise occur. (09-0082.)

The Secretary of State’s tracking number for this measure is 1427 and the Attorney General’s tracking number is 09-0082.

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The Attorney General’s official title and summary for the fourth measure is as follows:

**PROHIBITS STATE FROM TAXING COMMUNITY HOSPITALS TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR MEDI-CAL UNLESS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS ARE MET. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.** Prohibits state from imposing tax on community hospitals to obtain federal Medi-Cal funds unless tax proceeds are used to obtain federal matching funds of a specified amount. Requires depositing proceeds into trust fund subject to audit. Requires using proceeds to reimburse state for Medi-Cal collection and administration costs, make payments to hospitals, provide health coverage for low-income children, and increase Medi-Cal reimbursements to hospitals. Prohibits using proceeds to replace specified existing funding. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: This measure could affect the ability of the state to impose and collect revenues related to hospital charges and additional federal reimbursements. This could have a further impact on local government finances, particularly counties. In some situations, this measure could result in greater pressures for additional state spending than would otherwise occur. (09-0083.)

The Secretary of State’s tracking number for this measure is 1428 and the Attorney General’s tracking number is 09-0083.

The Attorney General’s official title and summary for the fifth measure is as follows:

**PROHIBITS STATE FROM TAXING COMMUNITY HOSPITALS TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR MEDI-CAL UNLESS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS ARE MET. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.** Prohibits state from imposing tax on community hospitals to obtain federal Medi-Cal funds unless tax proceeds are used to obtain federal matching funds of a specified amount. Requires depositing proceeds into trust fund subject to audit. Requires using proceeds to reimburse state for Medi-Cal collection and administration costs, make payments to hospitals, provide health coverage for low-income children, and increase Medi-Cal reimbursements to hospitals. Prohibits using proceeds to replace specified existing funding. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: This measure could affect the ability of the state to impose and collect revenues related to hospital charges and additional federal reimbursements. This could have a further impact on local government finances, particularly counties. In some situations, this measure could result in greater pressures for additional state spending than would otherwise occur. (09-0084.)
The Secretary of State’s tracking number for this measure is 1429 and the Attorney General’s tracking number is 09-0084.

The proponent for these five measures, Thomas W. Hiltachk, 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 – for each measure in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for these measures, meaning the signatures must be collected by June 4, 2010.

Mr. Hiltachk can be reached at (916) 442-7757.

The Attorney General’s official title and summary for the sixth measure is as follows:

PROHIBITS STATE FROM TAXING COMMUNITY HOSPITALS TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR MEDI-CAL UNLESS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS ARE MET. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Prohibits state from imposing tax on community hospitals to obtain federal Medi-Cal funds unless tax proceeds are used to obtain federal matching funds of a specified amount. Requires depositing proceeds into trust fund subject to audit. Requires using proceeds to reimburse state for Medi-Cal collection and administration costs, make payments to hospitals, provide health coverage for low-income children, and increase Medi-Cal reimbursements to hospitals. Prohibits using proceeds to replace specified existing funding. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: This measure could affect the ability of the state to impose and collect revenues related to hospital charges and additional federal reimbursements. This could have a further impact on local government finances, particularly counties. In some situations, this measure could result in greater pressures for additional state spending than would otherwise occur. (09-0074.)

The Secretary of State’s tracking number for this measure is 1423 and the Attorney General’s tracking number is 09-0074.

The Attorney General’s official title and summary for the seventh measure is as follows:

PROHIBITS STATE FROM TAXING COMMUNITY HOSPITALS TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR MEDI-CAL UNLESS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS ARE MET. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Prohibits state from imposing tax on community hospitals to obtain federal Medi-Cal funds unless tax proceeds are used to obtain federal matching funds of a specified amount. Requires depositing proceeds into trust fund subject to audit. Requires using proceeds to reimburse state for Medi-Cal collection and administration costs, make payments to hospitals, provide health coverage for low-income children, and increase Medi-Cal reimbursements to
hospitals. Prohibits using proceeds to replace specified existing funding.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: This measure could affect the ability of the state to impose and collect revenues related to hospital charges and additional federal reimbursements. This could have a further impact on local government finances, particularly counties. In some situations, this measure could result in greater pressures for additional state spending than would otherwise occur. (09-0079.)

The Secretary of State’s tracking number for this measure is 1425 and the Attorney General’s tracking number is 09-0079.

The proponent for these two measures, Charles H. Bell, Jr., 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 – for each measure in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for these measures, meaning the signatures must be collected by June 4, 2010.

Mr. Bell can be reached at (916) 442-7757.

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