



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

DB10:018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2010

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Tax-Related Initiative Enters Circulation

Imposes Additional Tax on Cigarettes for Cancer Research. Initiative 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:

IMPOSES ADDITIONAL TAX ON CIGARETTES FOR CANCER RESEARCH. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Imposes additional five cent tax on each cigarette distributed (\$1.00 per pack), and an equivalent tax increase on other tobacco products, to fund cancer research and other specified purposes. Requires tax revenues be deposited into a special fund to finance research and research facilities focused on detecting, preventing, treating, and curing cancer, heart disease, emphysema, and other tobacco-related diseases, and to finance prevention programs. Creates nine-member committee charged with administering the fund. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **Increase in new cigarette tax revenues of about \$855 million annually by 2011-12, declining slightly annually thereafter, for various health research and tobacco-related programs. Increase of about \$45 million annually to existing health, natural resources, and research programs funded by existing tobacco taxes. Increase in state and local sales taxes of about \$32 million annually.** (09-0097.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1444 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0097.

The proponent for this measure, N. Eugene Hill, must collect signatures of 433,971 registered voters – the number equal to five percent 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 July 1, 2010.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (916) 442-2952.

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