



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

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Religion Initiative Enters Circulation

Bible-Based Speech. Initiative 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, and the initiative may be circulated for signatures. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponent and to county elections officials. The Attorney General's official title and summary for the measure is as follows:

BIBLE-BASED SPEECH. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Exempts speech based on biblical authority from existing constitutional and statutory restrictions applicable to all other speech, including restrictions against discrimination and hate crimes. Prohibits any compelled speech or action if it would be against the speaker's or actor's beliefs based on biblical authority. Repeals constitutional provision denying protection to acts of religious expression inconsistent with the peace or safety of the State. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **Potentially minor increased costs to state and local governments to resolve legal issues pertaining to the effect of the measure.** (13-0014.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1605 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 13-0014.

The proponent for the measure, Allan Esses, must collect signatures of 807,615 registered voters – the number equal to eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2010 gubernatorial election – in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for the measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by March 3, 2014.

The initiative proponent can be reached at 5319 University Avenue, Suite 133, Irvine, California 92612. No phone number was provided.

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