NEWS RELEASE
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE KEVIN SHELLEY

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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

Limitations on Enforcement of Unfair Business Competition Laws. Initiative Statute.

SACRAMENTO, CA --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced today the proponents of a new initiative received clearance to begin collecting petition signatures.

The Attorney General's official title and summary is as follows:

LIMITATIONS ON ENFORCEMENT OF UNFAIR BUSINESS COMPETITION LAWS. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Amends unfair business competition laws to: limit individual's right to sue by allowing private enforcement only if that individual has been actually injured by, and suffered financial/property loss because of an unfair business practice; require representative claims to comply with procedural requirements applicable to class action lawsuits; authorize only California Attorney General or local public officials to sue on behalf of general public to enforce unfair business competition laws. Penalties recovered by Attorney General or local prosecutors to be used only for enforcement of consumer protection laws. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Unknown fiscal impact on the state depending of whether the measure increases or decreases court workload related to unfair competition lawsuits; unknown potential costs to local governments, depending on the extent to which diverted funds are replaced.

The proponents, Allan Zaremberg and John Sullivan, must collect 373,816 signatures of registered voters, 5 percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, for their measure. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions is May 13, 2004. The initiative proponents can be reached at 916-446-6752.

For a copy of the complete text, title & summary, and circulation calendar, please contact the Secretary of State's Press Office at 916-653-6575.

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