NEWS RELEASE
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE KEVIN SHELLEY

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Contact: Terri Carbaugh
Doug Stone
916-653-6575

Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

Use of Authorized or King James Bible as Textbook for Grades One Through Twelve. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

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

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

USE OF AUTHORIZED OR KING JAMES BIBLE AS TEXTBOOK FOR GRADES ONE THROUGH TWELVE. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Adds constitutional provision permitting use of Authorized or King James Bible (including translators' preface and introductory remarks, standard concordance and glossary) as a textbook for voluntary study of the Bible as literature, without devotional or denominational purpose. This textbook would be provided without cost to each pupil in grades one through twelve whose parents do not object and elect to opt out of study program. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Additional costs to the state and/or school districts from providing copies of the Bible to students: (1) one-time costs in the tens of millions of dollars up to $200 million and (2) annual costs in the low millions to tens of millions of dollars.

The proponent, Matt McLaughlin, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters, 8 percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, for his measure. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions is May 24 2004. The initiative proponent can be reached at 949- 285-7902.

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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