NEWS RELEASE
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE KEVIN SHELLEY

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Contact: Terri Carbaugh
Doug Stone
916-653-6575

Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

Workers' Compensation. Benefit and Eligibility Restrictions. Initiative Statute.

SACRAMENTO, CA --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced today that the Attorney General has prepared the official title and summary of a new initiative measure. Based on the official summary date, the Secretary of State prepares and notifies proponent of calendar filing deadlines, which appear below.

The Attorney General's official title and summary as received by the Secretary of State is as follows:

WORKERS' COMPENSATION. BENEFIT AND ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Requires employee to establish, by preponderance of evidence, that employment activities were predominant cause of injury or disease to receive workers' compensation benefits. Prohibits permanent disability based on subjective complaints. Requires apportionment regarding permanent disability to: account for previous awards for injury to same body part or affecting same kind of work; exclude prior or pre-existing illness or injury. Prohibits employee from submitting nonpsychiatric claims after notice of resignation, termination or involuntary/voluntary layoff. Establishes time limit for employer's payment of ongoing medical care to relieve symptoms; excludes specified non-medical care items. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Unknown, but potentially major annual savings in state and local government workers' compensation expenses.

The proponent, Edward J. "Ted" Costa, must collect 373,816 signatures of registered voters, 5 percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, for his measure. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions is June 18, 2004. The initiative proponent can be reached at 916-482-6175.

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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