FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, February 9, 2004

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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

SACRAMENTO, CA --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced today that the proponent of a new initiative has received clearance to begin collecting petition signatures for her measure.

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

DNA SAMPLES. COLLECTION. DATABASE. FUNDING. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Requires collection of DNA samples from all felons, and from adults and juveniles arrested for or charged with any felony. Authorizes local law enforcement laboratories to perform analyses for state database and maintain local database. Specifies procedures for confidentiality and removing samples from databases. Imposes additional monetary penalty upon certain fine/forfeitures to fund program. Designates California Department of Justice to implement program, subject to available moneys: Authorizes $7,000,000 loan from Legislature for implementation. Summary of estimate Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: This measure would result in the following direct fiscal effects: Unknown annual state costs potentially over $10 million initially, increasing to a couple tens of millions of dollars when fully implemented to collect, analyze, and store increased DNA samples. These costs would be partially offset by increased criminal penalty revenues. Unknown annual local costs potentially several million dollars initially, increasing to over $10 million when fully implemented to collect DNA samples. These costs could be offset by increased criminal penalty revenues.

The proponent, Bruce E. Harrington, must collect 373,816 signatures of registered voters, five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, for his measure. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions is July 2, 2004. The initiative proponent can be reached c/o Thomas Hiltachk at 916-442-7757.

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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