



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

KS04:019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, March 22, 2004

Contact: Doug Stone
Carol Dahmen
916-653-6575

Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

*Compensation for Injured Workers. Limits on Eligibility for Benefits, Medical Treatment.
Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute*

SACRAMENTO, CA --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced today that the proponents of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for their measure. If adopted by the voters, the measure would replace the existing interpretation of the workers' compensation law with an impartial and balanced interpretation. The measure would also limit an employee's right to obtain a second opinion and limits employer liabilities.

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

COMPENSATION FOR INJURED WORKERS. LIMITS ON ELIGIBILITY FOR
BENEFITS, MEDICAL TREATMENT. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT AND STATUTE.

- Repeals requirement that workers' compensation laws be interpreted to favor providing benefits to workers;
- Replaces with impartial/balanced interpretation.
- Permits injured employee treatment only by employer-approved physician.
- Limits right to obtain second medical opinion.
- Requires employee to prove employment activities predominantly caused injury.
- Limits employer liability for permanent disabilities to percentage caused by job-related injury.
- Requires compensation or medical treatment to be based on objective medical findings.
- Provides independent review of all medical treatment disputes.
- Limits right to sue for disability discrimination.

The summary of the estimate by the Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of the fiscal impact on state and local governments indicates this measure could result in annual savings that are potentially in the hundreds of millions of dollars for state and local government workers' compensation expenses.

The proponents, Christopher M. George and Joel Fox, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters, eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions is August 2, 2004. The initiative proponent can be reached at 916-444-6752

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.