



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

Public Benefits. Eligibility. Payment of Taxes. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

SACRAMENTO, CA --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced today that the proponent of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for his measure.

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

**PUBLIC BENEFITS. ELIGIBILITY. PAYMENT OF TAXES. INITIATIVE
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

- Amends the California Constitution to provide that no person shall be denied a state or local public benefit if he or she proves payment of at least one local, state or federal tax and if he or she is otherwise eligible for benefits based on income, resources, age, and physical disability.
- Defines "public benefit" broadly to include education, housing, welfare, health care, developmental services, mental health services, financial assistance, and various other services provided by local and state government.

The summary of the estimate by the Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of the fiscal impact on state and local governments indicates that state and local health and social services costs of several billion dollars annually. Loss of nonresident tuition revenues of about \$400 million per year and annual Cal Grant costs of about \$20 million.

The proponent, Hector Alvarado, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters, which is eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions is September 13, 2004. The initiative proponent can be reached at 323-312-0505.

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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