NEWS RELEASE
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

Identity Theft. Criminal Gang Activity. Forensic Computer Analysis Fund. Initiative Statute.

SACRAMENTO, CA --- Secretary of State Bruce McPherson announced today that the proponent of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures.

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

IDENTITY THEFT. CRIMINAL GANG ACTIVITY. FORENSIC COMPUTER ANALYSIS FUND. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

Increases criminal penalties for persons convicted of specified identity theft crimes. Adds identity theft and crimes involving personal identification cards to enumerated list of criminal gang activities. Expands definition of "personal identifying information" and requires prison terms and increased fines for acquisition of such information with intent to defraud. Expands venue in identity theft prosecutions to include county where victim resided at time of offense, and limits availability of probation. Creates forensic computer analysis fund to pay for analysis of electronic evidence in criminal investigations, financed through criminal fines.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Unknown net fiscal impact on state and local governments, depending on the number of future convictions for identity theft against children, seniors, dependent adults, or in association with criminal gang activity, and the ability of convicted offenders to pay the increased fines and fees proposed by the measure.

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1152 and the Attorney General's tracking number is SA2005RF0090

The proponent, Senator Chuck Poochigian, must collect 373,816 signatures of registered voters, equal to five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, in order to qualify the measure. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions for this measure is February 3, 2006. The initiative proponent can be reached at 916-648-1031.

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