FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation
Tax on Cigarettes. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson 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:

TAX ON CIGARETTEs. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE.

Imposes additional 13 cent tax on each cigarette distributed ($2.60 per pack), and indirectly increases tax on other tobacco products. Provides funding to qualified hospitals for emergency services, nursing education and health insurance to eligible children. Revenue also allocated to specified purposes including tobacco use prevention programs, enforcement of tobacco-related laws, and research, prevention and treatment of various conditions including cancers (breast, cervical, prostate and colorectal), heart disease, stroke, asthma and obesity. Exempts recipient hospitals from antitrust laws in certain circumstances. Revenue excluded from appropriation limits and Proposition 98 calculations.

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1197 and the Attorney General's tracking number is SA2005RF0139, Amdt. #1-NS.

The proponent for this measure, Paul Knepprath of the Coalition for a Healthy California, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters, which is eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 general election. The 150-day deadline to collect signatures is July 10, 2006. The initiative proponent can be reached at 916-444-8801.

For the complete title, summary and circulation calendar, please call the Secretary of State's Press Office at 916-653-6575.

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