



DEBRA BOWEN

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CONTACT: Nicole Winger
(916) 653-6575

Workers' Compensation Initiative Enters Circulation

Workers' Compensation. Statutory Amendment.

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponent of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for his measure.

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

WORKERS' COMPENSATION. STATUTORY AMENDMENT. Entitles workers injured "because of" their employment to receive medical treatment ordered from an unlimited number of licensed medical practitioners as chosen by the worker and without regard to the nature or location of practitioner. Eliminates need for preapproval of treatment provided that worker gives employer written notice of injury and employer does not file documents contesting liability. Eliminates employers' right to challenge treatment, pharmaceuticals, or diagnostic evaluations. Provides for payment of services within 60 days and in accordance with established schedule of charges. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Increased annual state and local government costs—potentially in the mid-hundreds of millions of dollars—for workers' compensation benefits for their employees. (07-0002.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1239 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0002.

The proponent for this measure, William S. Morris, must collect the signatures of 433,971 registered voters – the number equal to 5% of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election – in order to qualify the measure for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by September 10, 2007.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (209) 667-1948.

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