

# DEBRA BOWEN

## CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

DB07:031

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

#### *Mandatory Reporting of Pregnancies and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Minors as Abuse. Constitutional and Statutory Amendment.*

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

The Attorney General prepares the legal title and summary that is required to appear on initiative petitions. When the official language is complete, the Attorney General forwards it to the proponent and to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponent and to county elections officials, and the initiative may be circulated for signatures. The Attorney General's official title and summary for this measure is as follows:

**MANDATORY REPORTING OF PREGNANCIES AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS IN MINORS AS ABUSE. CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY AMENDMENT.** Requires that pregnancy of, diagnosis of sexually transmitted infection in, or miscarriage or abortion by, minor under 16 be defined and reported as evidence of criminal child abuse. Requires mandated reporters to state whether they believe sexual abuse occurred and to preserve physical evidence. Prevents courts from changing reporting requirements. Prohibits state payment for medical services unless reporting requirements are met. Criminalizes attempts to prevent reporting. Requires warning sign be posted in specified medical offices. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Health and Social Services Costs. Annual costs in the range of \$4 million to \$5 million for the state and about \$2 million for counties, and potential one-time Medi-Cal automation costs unlikely to exceed a few million dollars. Costs to Local Law Enforcement and Courts. Annual costs in the range of \$5 million to \$6 million per year. Potential Offsetting Savings. Unknown, potential savings to the state in health care and public assistance costs from decreases in sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancy. (Initiative 07-0013.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1249 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0013.

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The proponent for this measure, John Smith, must collect the signatures of 694,354 registered voters – the number equal to 8% 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 November 26, 2007.

The initiative proponent can be reached at [john.smith.jsjs@gmail.com](mailto:john.smith.jsjs@gmail.com). No phone number was provided.

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