

DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Dietary Supplement Initiative Enters Circulation

Dietary Supplements and Food Medical Expense. State Income Tax Deduction. Statute.

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 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:

DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS AND FOOD MEDICAL EXPENSE. STATE INCOME TAX DEDUCTION. STATUTE. Allows medical expense deduction on state income tax returns for costs of dietary supplements and food for special dietary needs. Dietary supplements include tablets, capsules, powder, and measured doses of liquid that contain vitamins, minerals, herbs, amino acids, or dietary substances, but do not include conventional food products. Foods for special dietary needs are those consumed due to a medical condition, for supplementing the diet, or as the sole item of the diet. Medical condition includes disease, pregnancy, lactation, infancy, food allergy, overweight and underweight. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Annual reduction in state revenues from the low millions of dollars to the low tens of millions of dollars. (Initiative 07-0033.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1270 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0033.

The proponent for this measure, Bryan Tallman, 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 February 7, 2008.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (408) 348-6542.

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