



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

DB07:082

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7, 2007

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Second Health Care Initiative Enters Circulation

Right to Health. Constitutional 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 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 the measure is as follows:

RIGHT TO HEALTH. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Amends the California Constitution to declare that “the right to health is a fundamental human right” and that “equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged on account of health”. Grants the Legislature the power to enforce these provisions by appropriate legislation. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government. This measure would have no direct fiscal effect on the state. However, the measure could result in indeterminable state or local government costs depending on how it is interpreted and applied by the courts. (Initiative 07-0054.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1286 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0054.

The proponent for this measure, Bryan Costales, must collect signatures of 694,354 registered voters – the number equal to 8% of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election – for this measure in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by April 7, 2008.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (415) 240-4554.

The first health care initiative was cleared for circulation on October 9 and signatures for that measure are due March 7, 2008.

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