



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Kate Folmar
(916) 653-6575

Animal-Related Initiative Enters Circulation

Stray and Owner-Relinquished Animals. 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 the measure is as follows:

STRAY AND OWNER-RELINQUISHED ANIMALS. STATUTE.

Mandates methods and practices for animal euthanasia in all public and private agencies sheltering stray or owner-relinquished animals. Requires mandatory holding periods and conditions that must be satisfied before any animal is killed. Mandates shelters to develop and follow care, cleaning, and disease-prevention protocols. Requires funds collected from dog license revenues to be used for free and low-cost animal sterilization and medical assistance programs. Requires that most animals adopted from specified agencies be spayed or neutered prior to adoption. Creates reporting, tracking, and notification requirements. Establishes private enforcement authority. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Probably significant local animal shelter operating costs in the mid tens of millions of dollars annually on a statewide basis, potentially small portion of costs being offset by penalty and adoption revenues. Potential ongoing state administrative costs of a couple million dollars each year. (Initiative 07-0059.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1291 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0059.

The proponent for this measure, Albert S. Scaletti, must collect signatures of 433,971 registered voters – the number equal to 5% of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election – for each measure in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for these measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by April 21, 2008.

The initiative proponent can be reached at 160 Tenth Street, San Francisco, California 94103-2618. No phone number was provided.

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