



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Insurance Initiative Enters Circulation

Limits on Certain Insurance Practices and Costs. Initiative 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:

LIMITS ON CERTAIN INSURANCE PRACTICES AND COSTS. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Limits the fees insurance companies can charge policyholders for paying their premiums in installments. Prohibits insurance brokers from collecting commissions from insurance companies and limits the fees brokers can charge customers. Prohibits insurance companies from considering a person's lack of prior insurance coverage in determining the cost of automobile or residential property insurance or whether a person is eligible for it. Prohibits insurance companies from considering a driver's "claims experience" in determining the cost of auto insurance or whether a driver is eligible for it. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: This measure would probably have no significant fiscal effect on state and local governments. (09-0029.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1384 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0029.

The proponents for this measure, Douglas Heller, 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 – 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 1, 2010.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (310) 392-0522, extension 309.

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