



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Marijuana Initiative Enters Circulation

Changes California Law to Legalize Marijuana and Release Nonviolent Marijuana Offenders from Jail. 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:

CHANGES CALIFORNIA LAW TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA AND RELEASE NONVIOLENT MARIJUANA OFFENDERS FROM JAIL. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Repeals state laws that make it a crime to possess, cultivate, transport, distribute, or use marijuana or hemp. Provides persons convicted or serving time for non-violent marijuana offenses be immediately released from prison, jail, parole, or probation, and have their convictions erased. Authorizes Legislature to adopt laws to license and tax commercial marijuana sales. Allows doctors to prescribe or recommend marijuana to patients, regardless of age. Prohibits testing for marijuana for employment or insurance purposes. Bars state from aiding enforcement of federal marijuana laws. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Savings in the several tens of millions of dollars annually to state and local governments on the costs of incarcerating and supervising certain marijuana offenders. Unknown but potentially major tax and fee revenues to state and local government related to the production and sale of marijuana products. (09-0044.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1393 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0044.

The proponent for this measure, Charles Jacobs, 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 19, 2010.

The initiative proponent can be reached at hempnow@usa.com. No phone number was provided.

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