

DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Insurance Initiative Enters Circulation

Limits on Insurance Company Practices. 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 INSURANCE COMPANY PRACTICES. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Prohibits insurance companies from determining the cost of, or eligibility for, residential property insurance based on a person's history of certain insurance claims or lack of prior insurance coverage. Prohibits insurance companies from determining the cost of, or eligibility for, insurance based on whether a policy holder has previously inquired about the insurance policy. Requires insurance companies to submit to the Insurance Commissioner the criteria used to determine the cost of, and eligibility for, residential property insurance. 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 net fiscal effect on state or local governments. (09-0050.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1401 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 09-0050.

The proponent 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 29, 2010.

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

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