



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

BM06:044

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, April 13, 2006

Contact: Nghia Nguyen Demovic
916-653-6575

Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

Repeat Offenders. Sentencing. Initiative Statute.

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson announced today that the proponents of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for their measure.

The Attorney General's official title and summary is as follows:

REPEAT OFFENDERS. SENTENCING. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

Reclassifies "violent" felonies as "Class A," "serious" felonies as "Class B," and other felonies as "Class C." Changes Three Strikes law and other sentence enhancements for repeat offenders by lengthening certain sentences and expanding list of felonies subject to the Three Strikes law. Provides courts with more sentencing options, including shorter sentences, for "third strikers" committing specified Class C felonies. Authorizes resentencing for certain "three strikers" serving life sentences for non-violent, non-serious felonies. Creates program to educate inmates on the consequences of committing new crimes.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Unknown net state costs-for prison operations, parole supervision, and courts-potentially growing to as much as a couple billion dollars annually within a decade. Unknown one-time state costs over a number of years for capital outlay associated with prison construction, potentially as much as several billions of dollars. Unknown fiscal impact to local governments for jail and court-related costs. (SA2006RF0021.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1215 and the Attorney General's tracking number is SA2006RF0021.

The proponents for this measure, Stephen J. Ipsen, Lawanda Hawkins and Steve Remige, must collect 373,816 signatures of registered voters, equal to five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, in order to qualify. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions for this measure is August 28, 2006. The initiative proponents can be reached at 213-700-4133.

-30-