



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

Inmates. Family Visitation. Initiative Statute.

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

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

INMATES. FAMILY VISITATION. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

Requires Director of Corrections to permit all prison inmates, except those inmates condemned to die or assigned to reception center or administrative segregation/security housing units, to participate in prison system's family visiting program, provided that inmates: (1) have or obtain high school diploma or equivalent; (2) agree to random drug testing; and (3) agree to participate in available Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous program. Requires inmates be given annual opportunity to take high school equivalency test. Limits denial of family visits as disciplinary measure. Incorporates existing legal restrictions on child victim visits to inmates.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Potential state costs of as much as a couple tens of millions of dollars in the long term, primarily in one-time costs for the construction of additional family visiting units in prisons. (SA2006RF0014.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1218 and the Attorney General's tracking number is SA2006RF0014.

The proponent for this measure, Carmen Harris, 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 September 5, 2006. The initiative proponent can be reached at P.O. Box 2411, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741. No phone number was provided.

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