

The Attorney General of California has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

AUTHORIZES ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE GATHERING FOR INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, AND RECALL PETITIONS. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Requires Secretary of State to develop an online platform allowing voters to view and sign electronically state and local initiative, referendum, and recall petitions on the Secretary of State's website, or to download, print, and sign petitions for submission to the Secretary of State. Requires Secretary of State or local elections official to verify these signatures. Requires Secretary of State to invite arguments for and against initiative, referendum, and recall measures, and to post submitted arguments on its website. Requires Secretary of State's website to include ongoing count of each measure's signatures submitted electronically or via downloaded and printed petitions. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: **One-time state and local government costs in the tens of millions of dollars or more to develop an online system for electronic petition signature gathering. Ongoing annual costs of millions of dollars or more to maintain the new system. Potential net costs or savings due to changed state and local government processes for verifying petition signatures.** (23-0007.)