

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 20, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 354

Introduced by Assembly Member Dahle

February 13, 2013

An act to amend ~~Section 9021~~ *Sections 303, 303.5, and 9051* of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 354, as amended, Dahle. ~~Initiative and referendum petitions: circulation requirements~~ *Ballot measures: ballot title and summary: ballot label.*

Under existing law, a statewide ballot measure may be placed on the ballot at a statewide election by a petition signed by the requisite number of voters or by the Legislature. Existing law requires the Attorney General to provide a ballot title and summary and ballot label for each ballot measure submitted to the voters at a statewide election. Existing law defines a ballot title and summary as a summary of the chief purpose and points of, including a summary of the fiscal impact of, a statewide ballot measure. Existing law requires a ballot label for a statewide ballot measure to be a condensed version of the ballot title and summary, including the fiscal impact summary.

This bill would require the ballot title and summary and ballot label for a statewide ballot measure to include a statement indicating whether the measure was placed on the ballot by a petition signed by the requisite number of voters or by the Legislature.

~~Existing law authorizes a person who is a registered voter or who is qualified to register to vote in this state to circulate an initiative or referendum petition anywhere within the state. Existing law requires~~

~~that each section of an initiative or referendum petition bear the name of a county or city and county, and allows only qualified registered voters of that county or city and county to sign that section of the petition.~~

~~This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 303 of the Elections Code is amended to
2 read:

3 303. “Ballot label” means that portion of the ballot containing
4 the names of the candidates or a statement of a measure. For *each*
5 statewide ~~measures~~ *measure*, the ballot label shall contain no more
6 than 75 words and shall be a condensed version of the ballot title
7 and summary, including *a statement indicating whether the*
8 *measure was placed on the ballot by petition or by the Legislature*
9 *and the fiscal impact summary prepared pursuant to Section 9087*
10 of this code and Section 88003 of the Government Code.

11 SEC. 2. Section 303.5 of the Elections Code is amended to
12 read:

13 303.5. (a) “Ballot title” ~~is~~ *means* the name of a statewide
14 measure included in the ballot label and the ballot title and
15 summary.

16 (b) “Ballot title and summary” means the summary of the chief
17 purpose and points *of*, including the fiscal impact summary ~~of any~~
18 *of*, a measure that appears in the state ballot pamphlet. The ballot
19 title and summary shall include a statement *indicating whether the*
20 *measure was placed on the ballot by petition or by the Legislature*
21 *and a summary of the measure’s fiscal impact.* ~~This~~ *The ballot*
22 *title and summary shall not exceed 100 words, not including the*
23 fiscal impact ~~statement~~ *summary*.

24 (c) (1) “Circulating title and summary” means the text that is
25 required to be placed on a petition for signatures that is either one
26 of the following:

27 (A) The summary of the chief purpose and points of a proposed
28 initiative measure that affects the Constitution or laws of the state,
29 and the fiscal impact of the proposed initiative measure.

1 (B) The summary of the chief purpose and points of a
2 referendum measure that affects a law or laws of the state.

3 (2) The circulating title and summary shall not exceed 100
4 words, not including the fiscal impact summary.

5 *SEC. 3. Section 9051 of the Elections Code is amended to read:*

6 9051. (a) (1) The ballot title and summary may differ from
7 the legislative, circulating, or other title and summary of the
8 measure and shall not exceed 100 words, not including the fiscal
9 impact *summary. The ballot title and summary shall include a*
10 *statement indicating whether the measure was placed on the ballot*
11 *by a petition signed by the requisite number of voters or by the*
12 *Legislature.*

13 (2) The ballot title and summary shall be amended to include a
14 summary of the Legislative Analyst's estimate of the net state and
15 local government fiscal impact prepared pursuant to Section 9087;
16 *of this code* and Section 88003 of the Government Code.

17 (b) The ballot label shall contain no more than 75 words and
18 shall be a condensed version of the ballot title and summary,
19 including *a statement indicating whether the measure was placed*
20 *on the ballot by petition or by the Legislature and the financial*
21 *impact summary prepared pursuant to Section 9087 of this code*
22 *and Section 88003 of the Government Code.*

23 (c) In providing the ballot title and summary, the Attorney
24 General shall give a true and impartial statement of the purpose
25 of the measure in such language that the ballot title and summary
26 shall neither be an argument, nor be likely to create prejudice, for
27 or against the proposed measure.

28 ~~SECTION 1. Section 9021 of the Elections Code is amended~~
29 ~~to read:~~

30 ~~9021. A person who is a voter or who is qualified to register~~
31 ~~to vote in this state may circulate an initiative or referendum~~
32 ~~petition anywhere within the state. Each section of the initiative~~
33 ~~or referendum petition shall bear the name of a county or city and~~
34 ~~county, and only qualified registered voters of that county or city~~
35 ~~and county may sign that section.~~

36 ~~The circulator may sign the section he or she is circulating, as~~
37 ~~provided in Section 106.~~

O