

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 535

Introduced by Assembly Member Grove

February 23, 2015

An act to amend Section 9051 of the Elections Code, relating to initiative measures.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 535, as introduced, Grove. Initiatives: ballot title and summary.

Existing law requires the Attorney General to provide a ballot label and a ballot title for each measure to be submitted to the voters at a statewide election. Existing law requires the Attorney General to prepare a summary of the chief purposes and points of each statewide ballot measure as part of the ballot title.

This bill would impose specified requirements with respect to the content of the ballot title and summary required to be prepared by the Attorney General.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 9051 of the Elections Code is amended
2 to read:
3 9051. (a) (1) The ballot title and summary may differ from
4 the legislative, circulating, or other title and summary of the
5 measure and shall not exceed 100 words, not including the fiscal
6 impact statement.

1 (2) The ballot title and summary shall include a summary of the
 2 Legislative Analyst’s estimate of the net state and local government
 3 fiscal impact prepared pursuant to Section 9087 of this code and
 4 Section 88003 of the Government Code.

5 (b) The ballot label shall not contain more than 75 words and
 6 shall be a condensed version of the ballot title and summary
 7 including the financial impact summary prepared pursuant to
 8 Section 9087 of this code and Section 88003 of the Government
 9 Code.

10 (c) In providing the ballot title and summary, the Attorney
 11 General shall give a true and impartial statement of the purpose
 12 of the measure in such language that the ballot title and summary
 13 shall neither be an argument, nor be likely to create prejudice, for
 14 or against the proposed measure. *The ballot title and summary*
 15 *shall also satisfy all of the following:*

16 (1) *Be written in clear and concise terms, understandable to*
 17 *the average voter, and in an objective and nonpartisan manner,*
 18 *avoiding the use of technical terms whenever possible.*

19 (2) *If the measure imposes or increases a tax or fee, the type*
 20 *and amount of the tax or fee shall be described.*

21 (3) *If the measure repeals existing law in any substantial*
 22 *manner, that fact shall be included.*

23 (4) *If the measure is contingent on the passage or defeat of*
 24 *another measure or statute, that fact shall be included.*

25 (d) *The Legislature shall provide the Attorney General with*
 26 *sufficient funding for administrative and other support relating to*
 27 *preparation of the ballot title and summary for initiative measures,*
 28 *including, but not limited to, plain-language specialists.*

29 (e)

30 (e) The Attorney General shall invite and consider public
 31 comment in preparing each ballot title and summary.