

Date: November 30, 2009
Initiative 09-0049

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

**CRIMINALIZES FALSE STATEMENTS ABOUT LEGISLATIVE ACTS, ELECTIONS,
OR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

Amends constitution to hold candidates for public office, government officials and employees, and members of the media criminally liable for intentionally making a false statement of “material fact” about legislative acts, elections for public office, or the employment or dismissal of government employees. Imposes on violators a 2 to 10 year prison term, a \$10,000 to \$500,000 fine, or both, and a lifetime ban on serving as a government official or employee, or member of the media. Permits private citizens to criminally prosecute suspected violators.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Unknown increase in state criminal justice costs offset partially or entirely by fines levied against persons convicted under the measure. (09-0049.)