May 31, 2016

Via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Kamala Harris
Attorney General
State of California
1300 “I” Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2919

Re: Title and Summary / Ballot Label for Initiative 15-0083

Dear Attorney General Harris:

This firm represents the proponents of and the committee formed to support the above-referenced initiative which will likely qualify for the November 8, 2016 General Election ballot. In connection with our statutory duty to provide a title and summary and ballot label for this initiative to the Secretary of State, we respectfully offer the following for your consideration.

We believe the circulating title and summary should be the starting point for use in the Voter Information Guide, with only one suggested change. In the sentence that follows the title, we would recommend a modest clarification: “Prohibits Legislature any bill to pass out of the Assembly or Senate from passing any bill unless it has been in print and published on the Internet for at least 72 hours before the vote, except in cases of public emergency.” We suggest this clarification to make clear that the notice provision applies to each bill proposed to be passed by either house of the Legislature. The proposed initiative amends Section 8 of Article IV which contextually applies to “either house,” “each house,” of the Legislature. Indeed, the initiative adds language clarifying its application to “the house considering the bill.”

In as much as the ballot label is a “condensed” version of the title and summary, we recommend:

LEGISLATURE. LEGISLATION AND PROCEEDINGS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Prohibits any bill to pass out of the Assembly or Senate unless printed and published on the Internet for at least 72 hours, except in emergency. Requires Legislature to audiovisual record its public proceedings and post on the Internet. (48 words)

If you determine that you need to shorten the above, the short title could be modified to read: “LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS” in place of the current four words.
I hope this is helpful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Hiltachk

TWH/cfd

Cc:  Ashley Johansson  
     Initiative Coordinator via email

     Connie LeLouis  
     Supervising Deputy Attorney General via email