

Rob Reiner

SA2003RF0057, AMOT.
#1-NS

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NOV 21 2003

INITIATIVE COORDINATOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

November 21, 2003

VIA MESSENGER

Office of the Attorney General
1300 "T" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Tricia Knight

Re: Improving Classroom Education Act

Dear Ms. Knight:

Enclosed is a revised copy of the "Improving Classroom Education Act," which we filed on November 14, 2003. We have amended Section 6 of the Act to make absolutely clear that the new tax on commercial property is in addition to the existing tax. We have also included the addresses at which we are registered to vote and the signed statements certifying that we will not willfully allow initiative signatures to be used for purposes other than qualification of the measure.

Please direct all correspondence and inquiries regarding this measure to:

Robin B. Johansen
Remcho, Johansen & Purcell
201 Dolores Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577
Phone: (510) 346-6200

Sincerely,

Rob Reiner

SA2003RF0057, AmDt.#
1-NS

Signed Statement Required by Elections Code Section 9608

I, Rob Reiner, acknowledge that it is a misdemeanor under state law (Section 18650 of the Elections Code) to knowingly or willfully allow the signatures on an initiative petition to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the proposed measure for the ballot. I certify that I will not knowingly or willfully allow the signatures for this initiative to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the measure for the ballot.

Rob Reiner

Dated this 21st day of November, 2003

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Please direct all correspondence and inquiries regarding this measure to:

Robin B. Johansen
Remcho, Johansen & Purcell
201 Dolores Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577
Phone: (510) 346-6200

Sincerely,

Barbara Kerr

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INITIATIVE COORDINATOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

SA2003RF0057, AmDt.

#1-NS

Signed Statement Required by Elections Code Section 9608

I, Barbara Kerr, acknowledge that it is a misdemeanor under state law (Section 18650 of the Elections Code) to knowingly or willfully allow the signatures on an initiative petition to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the proposed measure for the ballot. I certify that I will not knowingly or willfully allow the signatures for this initiative to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the measure for the ballot.

Barbara Kerr

Dated this 21st day of November, 2003

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INITIATIVE COORDINATOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Section 1: Title.

This measure shall be known and may be cited as the "Improving Classroom Education Act."

Section 2: Findings and Declaration of Purpose.

1. We must invest in our children's education. Providing a quality education for our children is the most important thing we can do for their future and the future of our state.
2. California must make children and classrooms the priority in school funding.
3. California schools continue to be underfunded. Education funding in California has been below the national average for more than a decade.
4. Because of the state budget crisis, education spending in California has been cut by billions of dollars. These cuts have resulted in teacher lay-offs, fewer textbooks and other classroom materials, as well as increased class size. We need to restore these cuts and ensure that our classrooms are adequately funded.
5. As a result of chronic underfunding, California class sizes are among the largest in the nation, denying children the individualized learning they deserve.
6. California must improve student performance by increasing funding to reduce class sizes, provide new instructional supplies and materials, offer teacher training and increase teacher compensation in order to attract the best and brightest into the teaching profession.
7. Studies show that children who go to preschool do better in reading and math and are more likely to graduate from high school and college. That is why we should give all children access to voluntary universal preschool to help them succeed.
8. A well-educated workforce increases productivity and quality for California businesses.
9. Education programs should be funded without raising homeowners' property taxes or reducing important services such as police and fire protection.
10. Unlike single-family residences, commercial buildings produce income for their owners. Business property changes ownership less often than houses, so the share of property taxes paid by businesses has been declining. Furthermore, California commercial real property tax rates are among the lowest in the nation. It makes sense, therefore, to tax commercial real property at a higher rate than private homes. The increased revenues will be used to improve the quality of California's public schools. Small businesses will be protected by new exemptions from the personal property tax.

11. We must provide protections from waste and mismanagement. None of the funds in this initiative will be used for administrative overhead. It also provides for criminal penalties, loss of credentials and/or fines for administrators who misuse school funds.

12. The annual audit required by this initiative will ensure that every penny goes into our classrooms, where it is needed most.

13. We must ensure that these funds are used for improving learning. None of the funds in this initiative can be used to replace or supplant existing funding.

Section 3. Purpose and Intent.

This measure is not intended to alter or repeal any exemption currently applicable to taxes on real property or to increase or in any way affect the property taxes paid by homeowners on noncommercial property.

Section 4. Section 5.5 is hereby added to Article IX of the Constitution of the State of California, to read as follows:

Sec. 5.5. (a) The Improving Classroom Education Fund is hereby created in the State Treasury to be held in trust for the purposes set forth below and is continuously appropriated for the support of school districts as follows:

(1) Two-thirds (2/3) for the support of the K-12 educational program, the funds to be distributed to school districts based on enrollment;

(2) One-third (1/3) to provide voluntary universal pre-school for children one year prior to kindergarten, the funds to be distributed based on preschool enrollment.

(b) Improving Classroom Education Funds dedicated to the support of the K-12 educational program shall not be used to pay administrative costs and may be used for the following educational purposes only:

(1) To reduce class size in grades kindergarten through 12, inclusive.

(2) To purchase textbooks and instructional materials, supplies, and equipment.

(3) To provide teacher salaries and benefits that will encourage qualified individuals to become teachers and to remain teachers in California's public schools.

(4) To provide training for teachers.

(c) Improving Classroom Education Funds dedicated to the support of voluntary, universal preschool may only be used to provide preschool programs, including: