



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 16, 2024 Media Contact: Sandra McMerty, Media Contact 701-328-3660 | slmcmerty@nd.gov

## STATUTORY INITIATIVE SUBMITTED TO SECRETARY OF STATE

**BISMARCK, ND** – Secretary of State Michael Howe announced today that a proposed petition to initiate a statutory measure was submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State for review and approval to circulate. The proposed statutory initiative relates to Legalization of Cannabis and Related Regulations.

Steve Bakken, Bismarck, North Dakota, is the chairperson of the sponsoring committee.

Attached is a copy of the proposed petition, which contains a list of the sponsoring committee members, and a timeline related to the process.

The Secretary of State and Attorney General have five to seven business days to draft a petition title. This short and concise statement must fairly represent the measure and must be included on the petition circulated for the signatures of qualified electors. The petition title will be provided to the sponsoring committee no earlier than Tuesday, April 23, 2024, nor later than Thursday April 25, 2024.

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The Office of Secretary of State oversees a variety of functions, including elections, business registrations, licensing for certain occupations, Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) lien filings, and combative sports, as well as serving as the custodian of the Great Seal, and attesting official documents and acts of the Governor.