

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2009

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (MARRIAGE)

Introduced By: Senators Ciccone, Tassoni, Walaska, Gallo, and McCaffrey

Date Introduced: January 14, 2009

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

1 WHEREAS, The General Assembly seeks to empower the citizens of the state of Rhode
2 Island with the right to determine by a vote of the people the question whether to extend lawful
3 marriage in the state to a lawful union between two men and a lawful union between two women;
4 and

5 RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the General
6 Assembly voting therefore, an amendment to Article I of the Constitution of the State shall be
7 proposed to the qualified electors of the state for their approval in accordance with the provisions
8 of Article XIV of the Constitution, and upon such approval, new section 25, set forth below, be
9 added to and included in Article I of the Constitution; and that said proposition of amendment
10 shall be submitted to the electors for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general
11 election, and said proposition of amendment shall appear on the ballots as the first referendum
12 question posed and shall be preceded by the following explanation and space to "approve" or
13 "reject", all of which shall be in substantially the following form:

14 1. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – MARRIAGE

15 Approval of this amendment will recognize and define marriage in the state of Rhode
16 Island as a lawful union between one man and one woman, and/or a lawful union between two
17 men, and/or a lawful union between two women.

18 APPROVE _____

19 REJECT _____

1 A new section shall be added to and included in Article I of the Constitution to read as
2 follows:

3 Section 25. Marriage – Marriage shall be recognized and defined in Rhode Island as any
4 lawful union between one man and one woman, and/or any lawful union between two men,
5 and/or any lawful union between two women.

6 RESOLVED, That the voting places in the several cities and towns shall be kept open
7 during the hours required by law for voting therein for general officers of the state; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause said proposition of amendment to be
10 published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the said
11 meetings of the said electors; and said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or notices to
12 district meetings of said electors; the district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as
13 now provided by law for the town, ward, and district meetings for the election of general officers
14 of the state.

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