

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

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 Tassoni, Cote, Maher, and Pinga

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

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 limit marriage
3 in the state to a lawful union between one man and one woman; and

4 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Supreme Court in Chambers v. Ormiston, Supreme Court
5 No. 2006-340, has defined "Marriage" as stated in R.I.G.L. section 8-10-3(a) as "the state of
6 being united to a person of the opposite sex"; now, therefore be it

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

16 1. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT-MARRIAGE

17 Only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in the State of Rhode
18 Island.

19 APPROVE _____

1 REJECT _____

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

4 "Section 25. Marriage – Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or
5 recognized in Rhode Island."

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; said 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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