

General Assembly

Senate Joint Resolution No. 35

January Session, 2025

Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by: (GAE)

RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CONCERNING DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX UNDER THE EQUAL PROTECTION CLAUSE.

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 Section 1. That the following be proposed as an amendment to the 2 Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the

3 manner provided by the Constitution, shall, to all intents and purposes,

4 become a part thereof:

5 Article twenty-first of the amendments to the Constitution is 6 amended to read as follows:

No person shall be denied the equal protection of the law nor be subjected to segregation or discrimination in the exercise or enjoyment of his or her civil or political rights because of religion, race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex or physical or mental disability. <u>As used in</u> this section, discrimination in the exercise or enjoyment of civil or political rights because of sex includes, but is not limited to, discrimination, in intent or effect, based on pregnancy, including preventing, initiating, continuing or terminating a pregnancy; sexual
orientation; gender identity and expression; and related health care.

16 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the 17 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly 18 elected at the general election to be held on November 3, 2026, and 19 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented 20 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 3, 2026, 21 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the amendments 22 to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed amendment to be 23 used on the ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the 24 State be amended to amend the equal protection clause to provide that 25 discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination based on 26 pregnancy, including preventing, initiating, continuing or terminating 27 a pregnancy, sexual orientation and gender identity and expression?"

GAE Joint Favorable