
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4207

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Holmquist, Ahern, Curtis, Schindler, Orcutt, Roach, Dunn, Condotta, Rodne, McCune, Buri, Armstrong, Ericksen, Serben, Kristiansen, Kretz, Anderson, Talcott, Campbell, Woods and Pearson

Read first time 01/31/2005. Referred to Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Law.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

3 THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state the
4 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state
5 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to
6 Article IV of the Constitution of the state of Washington by adding a
7 new section to read as follows:

8 Article IV, section To secure and preserve the benefits
9 of marriage for our society and for future generations of children,
10 only a union between one man and one woman shall be a marriage valid in
11 or recognized by this state and its political subdivisions.
12 Recognizing that marriage between persons other than a male and a
13 female has never been authorized or recognized by law in this state,
14 any marriage not otherwise considered valid by an act of the
15 legislature or the people, is void and of no legal effect. This state
16 and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal
17 status for relationships of unmarried individuals, including any civil
18 union, domestic partnership, or other similar relationship, that
19 intends to or does approximate the design, qualities, significance, or

1 effect of marriage, or extends or confers the legal incidents thereof,
2 including any marital, spousal, or familial right, benefit, privilege,
3 advantage, immunity, or entitlement, or any equivalent thereof, that is
4 authorized or recognized by law, or is paid for, directly or
5 indirectly, in whole or in part, with public funds. Notwithstanding
6 any other provision of this Constitution, no court established by this
7 Constitution or by an act of the legislature shall have jurisdiction to
8 hear or decide any claim that a relationship other than that prescribed
9 by the legislature or the people as constituting lawful marriage is
10 entitled to legal status that intends to or does approximate the
11 design, qualities, significance, or effect of marriage, including any
12 legal incident thereof, such as any marital, spousal, or familial
13 right, benefit, privilege, advantage, immunity, or entitlement, or any
14 equivalent thereof, that is authorized or recognized by law, or is paid
15 for, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, with public funds.
16 Nothing in this provision prevents private parties from contracting
17 between and among themselves for any right, benefit, privilege,
18 advantage, immunity, or entitlement, or any equivalent thereof, that is
19 not otherwise expressly prohibited by law. The provisions of this
20 section shall supersede any other provision of this Constitution,
21 including any conflicting provisions in Article I, Article IV, and
22 Article XXXI of this Constitution.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause
24 notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four
25 times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal
26 newspaper in the state.

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