
OLR Bill Analysis

sSJ 42

RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CONCERNING A RIGHT OF INDIVIDUAL PRIVACY.

SUMMARY

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to recognize that the right of individual privacy is essential to the well-being of a free society and must not be infringed without showing a compelling state interest.

Under the proposed amendment, this right must include the right of all (1) adults of this state to intimacy or marriage with another consenting adult regardless of sex or race and (2) residents of this state to reproductive freedom, including the ability to make and effectuate decisions to prevent, continue, or end one's own pregnancy. The proposed amendment prohibits the state from directly or indirectly denying, burdening, or abridging this right unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

The resolution specifies that this amendment is intended to further, and does not limit, the right to equal protection guaranteed under the state Constitution.

The ballot designation to be used when the amendment is presented at the general election is "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to recognize a right to individual privacy, including the right of adults to intimacy and marriage with another adult regardless of sex or race and the right of all residents to reproductive freedom and to prohibit the state from infringing such right without showing a compelling state interest?"

EFFECTIVE DATE: If the resolution passes by at least three-fourths of the membership of each house of the General Assembly, it will be

placed on the 2024 general election ballot. If it passes by a majority of the membership of each house but less than three-fourths, it will be referred to the 2025 session of the legislature. If it passes in that session by a majority of each house, it will appear on the 2026 general election ballot. If a majority of those voting on the amendment in the general election approve it, the amendment will become part of the state constitution.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 6 (03/27/2023)