

2007 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

January 9, 2007 – Introduced by Senators ERPENBACH, ROBSON, RISSER, CARPENTER, MILLER and LEHMAN, cosponsored by Representatives PARISI, YOUNG, BLACK, HEBL, TURNER, BERCEAU, SHERIDAN, KESSLER, POPE-ROBERTS, TRAVIS, POCAN and GRIGSBY. Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Corrections.

1 **To amend** section 1 of article I of the constitution; **relating to:** equal rights (first
2 consideration).

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau
EXPLANATION OF PROPOSAL

Currently, the constitution states that “all people are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights; among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; to secure these rights, governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.” This constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2007 legislature on first consideration, provides that all persons are guaranteed equal protection of the laws and no law shall discriminate on the basis of sex, gender, race, color, sexual orientation, disability, religion, national origin, marital status, family status, age, or ancestry and requires the government to protect and secure these equal rights of the governed.

A proposed constitutional amendment requires adoption by two successive legislatures, and ratification by the people, before it can become effective.

3 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That:***
4 **SECTION 1.** Section 1 of article I of the constitution is amended to read:
5 [Article I] Section 1. All people are born equally free and independent, and have
6 certain inherent rights; among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;

1 to secure these rights, governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from
2 the consent of the governed. All persons are guaranteed equal protection of the laws
3 and no law shall discriminate on the basis of sex, gender, race, color, sexual
4 orientation, disability, religion, national origin, marital status, family status, age, or
5 ancestry. The government shall protect and secure these equal rights of the
6 governed.

7 ***Be it further resolved, That*** this proposed amendment be referred to the
8 legislature to be chosen at the next general election and that it be published for 3
9 months previous to the time of holding such election.

10 (END)