



2019 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 86

January 29, 2020 - Introduced by Senators JACQUE, CRAIG and STROEBEL, cosponsored by Representatives SANFELIPPO, BRANDTJEN, BALLWEG, GUNDRUM, HORLACHER, HUTTON, KULP, MAGNAFICI, MURPHY, QUINN, RAMTHUN, SCHRAA, SKOWRONSKI, SORTWELL, THIESFELDT, TITTL, TUSLER, WICHGERS and BROOKS. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection.

- 1 ***To renumber and amend*** section 1 of article I; and ***to create*** section 1 (2) of article
2 I of the constitution; **relating to:** the term persons (first consideration).

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

The Wisconsin Constitution provides that all people are born equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, including the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2019 legislature on first consideration, eliminates the word “born” leaving the phrase “all persons are equally free and independent.” The constitutional amendment also specifies that, as applied to the right to life, the term “persons” applies to every human being at any stage of development. The constitutional amendment allows the legislature to define the scope of protections afforded to unborn persons and specifies that any prohibition of conduct with regard to unborn persons must be prescribed by the legislature by law.

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

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- 3 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That:***
4 **SECTION 1.** Section 1 of article I of the constitution is renumbered section 1 (1)
5 of article I and amended to read:

