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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 57

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 11, 2022

*Proposing an amendment to Section 15-A of Article I of the Constitution of Virginia, relating to marriage; repeal of same-sex marriage prohibition; affirmative right to marry.*

Patron—Sickles

Committee Referral Pending

WHEREAS, a proposed amendment to the Constitution of Virginia, hereinafter set forth, was agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each of the two houses of the General Assembly at the special session I of 2021 and referred to this, the next regular session held after the 2021 general election of members of the House of Delegates, as required by the Constitution of Virginia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the following amendment to the Constitution of Virginia be, and the same hereby is, proposed in conformity with the provisions of Section 1 of Article XII of the Constitution of Virginia, namely:

Amend Section 15-A of Article I of the Constitution of Virginia as follows:

ARTICLE I

BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 15-A. ~~Marriage~~ *Fundamental right to marry.*

That ~~only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions~~ *the right to marry is a fundamental right, inherent in the liberty of persons, and marriage is one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness.*

This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions ~~shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage. Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage and agents shall issue marriage licenses, recognize marriages, and treat all marriages equally under the law regardless of the sex or gender of the parties to the marriage.~~

*Religious organizations and clergy acting in their religious capacity shall have the right to refuse to perform any marriage.*

INTRODUCED

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