

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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SENATE DRS15075-MM-47 (02/27)

Short Title: NC Adopt Equal Rights Amendment.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators McKissick and Van Duyn (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO RATIFY THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
3 OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS FOR MEN
4 AND WOMEN.

5 Whereas, the 92nd Congress of the United States of America at its second session,
6 in both houses, by a Constitutional majority of two-thirds thereof, adopted the following
7 proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States of America in the following words,
8 to wit:

9 "JOINT RESOLUTION

10 *****

11 "Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in
12 Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is
13 proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all
14 intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the Legislatures of
15 three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission by the
16 Congress:

17 "ARTICLE _____

18 "Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United
19 States or by any State on account of sex.

20 "Sec. 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the
21 provisions of this article.

22 "Sec. 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification."; and

23 Whereas, the United States Congress adopted the 27th Amendment to the
24 Constitution of the United States, the so-called Madison Amendment, relating to Compensation
25 of Members of Congress; this amendment was proposed 203 years earlier by our First Congress
26 and only recently ratified by three-fourths of the states; the United States Archivist certified the
27 27th Amendment on May 18, 1992; and

28 Whereas, the founders of our nation, including, but not limited to, James Madison,
29 did not favor further restrictions to Article V of the Constitution of the United States; and

30 Whereas, the restricting time limit for the Equal Rights Amendment ratification is in
31 the resolving clause and is not a part of the amendment proposed by Congress and already
32 ratified by 35 states; and

33 Whereas, having passed a time extension for the Equal Rights Amendment on
34 October 20, 1978, Congress has demonstrated that a time limit in a resolving clause can be
35 disregarded if it is not a part of the proposed amendment; and



1 Whereas, the United States Supreme Court in *Coleman v. Miller*, 307 U.S. 433, at
2 456 (1939), recognized that Congress is in a unique position to judge the tenor of the nation, to
3 be aware of the political, social, and economic factors affecting the nation, and to be aware of
4 the importance to the nation of the proposed amendment; and

5 Whereas, if an amendment to the Constitution of the United States has been
6 proposed by two-thirds of both houses of Congress and ratified by three-fourths of the state
7 legislatures, it is for Congress under the principles of *Coleman v. Miller* to determine the
8 validity of the state ratifications occurring after a time limit in the resolving clause, but not in
9 the amendment itself; and

10 Whereas, Constitutional equality for women and men continues to be timely in the
11 United States and worldwide, and a number of other nations have achieved constitutional
12 equality for their women and men; Now, therefore,

13 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

14 **SECTION 1.** That the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United
15 States of America set out in the preamble to this act be, and the same is, hereby ratified by the
16 General Assembly of the State of North Carolina.

17 **SECTION 2.** That certified copies of this preamble and act be forwarded by the
18 Governor of this State to the Administrator of General Services, Washington, D.C., and the
19 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
20 United States.

21 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.