



1 that ratification of the federal Equal Rights Amendment would  
2 be fully consistent with the will of the majority of voters in  
3 this state, and

4           WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution  
5 allows the Legislature of the State of Florida to ratify this  
6 proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States,  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida finds  
9 that the Equal Rights Amendment for men and women is  
10 reasonable and sufficiently contemporaneous and needed in the  
11 United States Constitution because while women enjoy more  
12 rights today than they did when the Equal Rights Amendment was  
13 first introduced in 1923 or when it passed out of Congress in  
14 1972, hard-won laws against gender discrimination do not rest  
15 on any unequivocal constitutional foundation and the laws can  
16 be inconsistently enforced or even repealed, and

17           WHEREAS, elements of gender discrimination remain in  
18 statutory and case law, and courts have had difficulty  
19 applying a consistent standard to gender classifications which  
20 are not inherently suspect or comparable to racial or ethnic  
21 classifications under equal-protection analysis, and

22           WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment for men and women  
23 is necessary in order to have a clear constitutional guarantee  
24 that gender is considered a suspect classification and  
25 entitled to the same strict scrutiny that courts reserve for  
26 race, religion, and national origin, NOW, THEREFORE,

27  
28 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida, the  
29 House of Representatives Concurring:

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