

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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SENATE DRS85274-LBx-264B (2/12)

Short Title: Defense of Marriage.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Forrester.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT MARRIAGE IS
2 THE UNION OF ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN AT ONE TIME, AND THIS IS
3 THE ONLY MARRIAGE THAT IS RECOGNIZED AS VALID IN THIS STATE.
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5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Article 14 of the North Carolina Constitution is amended by
7 adding the following new section:

8 "Sec. 6. **Marriage.** Marriage is the union of one man and one woman at one time.
9 This is the only marriage that shall be recognized as valid in this State. The uniting of
10 two persons of the same sex or the uniting of more than two persons of any sex in a
11 marriage, civil union, domestic partnership, or other similar relationship within or
12 outside of this State shall not be valid or recognized in this State. This constitution shall
13 not be construed to require that marital status or the rights, privileges, benefits or other
14 legal incidents of marriage be conferred upon unmarried individuals or groups."

15 **SECTION 2.** The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be
16 submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the statewide general election in
17 November of 2004, which election shall be conducted under the laws then governing
18 elections in the State. Ballots, voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with
19 Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. The question to be used in the voting systems and
20 ballots shall be:

21 FOR AGAINST

22 Constitutional amendment to provide that marriage is the union of one man
23 and one woman at one time, and this is the only marriage that shall be recognized as
24 valid in this State."

25 **SECTION 3.** If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the
26 amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the
27 amendment to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment

- 1 so certified among the permanent records of that office. The amendment set out in
- 2 Section 1 of this act shall become effective January 1, 2005.