

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 79**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
215th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 6, 2012

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator GERALD CARDINALE**

**District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Senator STEVEN V. OROHO**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators A.R.Bucco and Pennacchio**

**SYNOPSIS**

Proposes constitutional amendment to provide that only the union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as marriage.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** proposing to amend Article I of the  
2 New Jersey Constitution by adding a new paragraph.

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4 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the  
5 General Assembly concurring):

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7 1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of  
8 the State of New Jersey is agreed to:

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10 **PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

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12 Amend Article I by adding a new paragraph 23 to read as  
13 follows:

14 23. Only the union of one man and one woman shall be valid or  
15 recognized as a marriage in the State of New Jersey.

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17 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally  
18 agreed to pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it  
19 shall be submitted to the people at the next general election  
20 occurring more than three months after the final agreement and  
21 shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each  
22 county designated by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
23 General Assembly and the Attorney General, not less than three  
24 months prior to the general election.

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26 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be  
27 submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and  
28 form:

29 There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at the  
30 general election, the following:

31 a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used,  
32 a legend which shall immediately precede the question as follows:

33 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus  
34 (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are  
35 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the  
36 square opposite the word "No."

37 b. In every municipality the following question:

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	YES	<p>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT          PROVIDING THAT ONLY THE UNION          OF ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN          SHALL BE VALID IN NEW JERSEY</p> <p>Shall the proposed amendment of Article I          of the Constitution, agreed to by the          Legislature, providing that only the union of          one man and one woman shall be valid as a          marriage in the State of New Jersey, be          approved?</p>
	NO	<p>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</p> <p>Approval of this amendment would prohibit          official recognition as a marriage of any          union not between one man and one woman.</p>

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STATEMENT

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6 The proposed constitutional amendment specifies that only the  
 7 union of one man and one woman shall be valid as a marriage in the  
 8 State of New Jersey. This amendment is not intended to affect any  
 9 equal benefits or domestic partnership rights provided by law. The  
 10 amendment is in response to the New Jersey Supreme Court's  
 11 opinion in Lewis v. Harris, 188 N.J. 415 (2006).