

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

**2 An Act to provide for the submission to the voters of a proposed amendment to Article I of the
3 Constitution of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15-A, relating to marriage.**

[S 526]

Approved

6 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

7 1. § 1. It shall be the duty of the officers conducting the election directed by law to be held on the
8 Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2006, at the places appointed for holding the same, to open
9 a poll and take the sense of the qualified voters upon the ratification or rejection of the proposed
10 amendment to the Constitution of Virginia, contained herein and in the joint resolution proposing such
11 amendment, to wit:

12 Amend Article I of the Constitution of Virginia by adding a section numbered 15-A as follows:

ARTICLE I BILL OF RIGHTS

15 Section 15-A. Marriage.

16 *That only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by*
17 *this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions.*

18 This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for
19 relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or
20 effects of marriage. Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize
21 another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations,
22 qualities, or effects of marriage.

23 § 2. The ballot shall contain the following question:

24 "Question: Shall Article I (the Bill of Rights) of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to state, in
25 part, that 'only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by
26 this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions' and to add provisions relating to the legal status of
27 other relationships?" Question: Shall Article I (the Bill of Rights) of the Constitution of Virginia be
28 amended to state:

29 "That only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by
30 this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions.

31 *This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for*
32 *relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or*
33 *effects of marriage. Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize*
34 *another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations,*
35 *qualities, or effects of marriage."?*

36 The ballots shall be prepared, distributed and voted, and the results of the election shall be
37 ascertained and certified, in the manner prescribed by § 24.2-684 of the Code of Virginia. The State
38 Board of Elections shall comply with § 30-19.9 of the Code and shall cause to be sent to the electoral
39 boards of each county and city sufficient copies of the full text of the amendment and question
40 contained herein for the officers of election to post in each polling place on election day.

41 The electoral board of each county and city shall make out, certify and forward an abstract of the
42 votes cast for and against such proposed amendment in the manner now prescribed by law in relation to
43 votes cast in general elections.

44 The State Board of Elections shall open and canvass such abstracts and examine and report the
45 whole number of votes cast at the election for and against such amendment in the manner now
46 prescribed by law in relation to votes cast in general elections. The State Board of Elections shall record
47 a certified copy of such report in its office, and without delay make out and transmit to the Governor an
48 official copy of such report, certified by it. The Governor shall, without delay, make proclamation of the
49 result, stating therein the aggregate vote for and against the amendment.

50 If a majority of those voting vote in favor of the amendment, it shall become effective on January 1,
51 2007.

52 The expenses incurred in conducting this election shall be defrayed as in the case of election of
53 members of the General Assembly.