

SENATE RESOLUTION

8631

By Senator Cleveland

1 WHEREAS, The nation's long-proposed Equal Rights Amendment
2 promises that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied
3 or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex"
4 and was first introduced in Congress in 1923 and filed every session
5 thereafter from 1923 to 1972; and

6 WHEREAS, The Equal Rights Amendment was finally approved by
7 Congress in 1972 and sent to the states for ratification with a 7-
8 year deadline; and

9 WHEREAS, Washington has historically been a leader among states
10 in providing equality for all its citizens and in 1972 passed its own
11 equal rights amendment to the Washington state Constitution,
12 prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex, and then in March of
13 1973 became the 30th state to ratify the federal Equal Rights
14 Amendment; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1978 Congress extended the original ratification
16 deadline for three more years and 35 of the needed 38 states ratified
17 the proposed amendment before the deadline; and

18 WHEREAS, Nevada and Illinois ratified the proposed amendment
19 after the deadline, raising the total number of states to 37 while
20 Virginia continues to consider ratification; and

21 WHEREAS, After a 38th state votes for ratification, the ERA can
22 be referred back to Congress where the deadline Congress placed on
23 ratification in the 1970s can be removed, extended or waived; and

1 WHEREAS, Washington has not wavered from its insistence that the
2 bedrock principles of our democracy — "all are created equal,"
3 "liberty and justice for all," "government of the people, by the
4 people, and for the people" — apply equally to men and women, and
5 should apply regardless of how an individual identifies;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
7 acknowledges the anniversary of the passage of the federal Equal
8 Rights Amendment in 1972 and reaffirms our state's commitment to
9 freedom from discrimination on the basis of sex.

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