

By Mr. Frank of Boston, petition of the Homophile Union of Boston, Barney Frank and another for a legislative amendment to the Constitution providing that equality under the law shall not be denied or abridged because of sex, race, color, sexual preference, creed or national origin. The Judiciary.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Four.

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PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDING THAT EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW SHALL NOT BE DENIED OR ABRIDGED BECAUSE OF SEX, RACE, COLOR, SEXUAL PREFERENCE, CREED OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

1 A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House  
2 of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be  
3 expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the  
4 following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become  
5 a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session  
6 of the next General Court and approved by the people at the  
7 state election next following]:

8 ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

9 ART. . . . Part the First of the Constitution is hereby  
10 amended by striking out Article 1 and inserting in place thereof  
11 the following: — All persons are born free and equal, and have  
12 certain natural, essential, and unalienable rights; among which  
13 may be reckoned the right of enjoying and defending their lives  
14 and liberties, that of acquiring, possessing and protecting  
15 property; in fine, that of seeking and obtaining their safety and  
16 happiness.

17 Equality under the law shall not be denied or abridged because  
18 of sex, race, color, sexual preference, creed or national origin.  
19 This paragraph is self-operative.

