

Subject Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment; State Constitutional Amendment

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Date March 31, 2025

Summary

This bill proposes an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution. The new section (No. 18) would guarantee equal rights under the law of the state, state agency rules and regulations, or local government rules and regulations, to all persons, and provides the state shall not discriminate, either intentionally or by having the effect of discrimination, against a person on account of a list of protected classes.

The protected classes listed in the amendment are:

- Race and color
- National origin and ancestry
- Disability
- Sex, including decisions related to one's own pregnancy, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation

The constitutional amendment provides that any action by the state that denies equal rights would be invalid unless the state's action is the least restrictive means to achieving a compelling government interest. But the constitutional amendment states it does not limit or narrow existing constitutional rights or invalidate laws that are intended to prevent or remedy discrimination based on one of the protected classes that are listed in the amendment.

This section would provide that the constitutional amendment is submitted to the voters of the state in the 2026 general election and that the amendment, if ratified, would be effective on January 1, 2027.