

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2011

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SENATE BILL 514\*  
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/15/11  
House Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 9/12/11

Short Title: Defense of Marriage.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 6, 2011

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT MARRIAGE  
3 BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN IS THE ONLY DOMESTIC LEGAL  
4 UNION THAT SHALL BE VALID OR RECOGNIZED IN THIS STATE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Article 14 of the North Carolina Constitution is amended by adding  
7 the following new section:

8 "**Sec. 6. Marriage.**

9 Marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be  
10 valid or recognized in this State. This section does not prohibit a private party from entering  
11 into contracts with another private party; nor does this section prohibit courts from adjudicating  
12 the rights of private parties pursuant to such contracts."

13 **SECTION 2.** The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to  
14 the qualified voters of the State at a statewide election to be held on the date of the first primary  
15 in 2012, which election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State.  
16 Ballots, voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General  
17 Statutes. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

18 "[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST

19 Constitutional amendment to provide that marriage between one man and one  
20 woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State."

21 **SECTION 3.** If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the  
22 amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the  
23 amendment to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment so  
24 certified among the permanent records of that office.

25 **SECTION 4.** The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act is effective upon  
26 certification.

27 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

