



2011 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

1 **To amend** section 1 of article I of the constitution; **relating to:** the terms people and
2 person (first consideration).

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

The constitution states that all people are born equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, among which is the right to life. This constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2011 legislature on first consideration, replaces the phrase “are born equally free and independent” with the phrase “are equally free and independent” and defines the terms “people” and “person” with respect to the right to life to include every human being at any stage of development.

A constitutional amendment requires adoption by two successive legislatures, and ratification by the people, before it becomes effective.

3 **Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That:**

4 **SECTION 1.** Section 1 of article I of the constitution is amended to read:

5 [Article I] Section 1. All people are ~~born~~ equally free and independent, and have
6 certain inherent rights; among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness;
7 to secure these rights, governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from

1 the consent of the governed. As applied to the right to life, the terms “people” and
2 “person” shall apply to every human being at any stage of development.

3 ***Be it further resolved, That*** this proposed amendment be referred to the
4 legislature to be chosen at the next general election and that it be published for three
5 months previous to the time of holding such election.

6 (END)