

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5043

By Representative D. Williams

2-6

A PROPOSITION to amend section 7 of the bill of rights of the constitution of the state of Kansas, relating to religious liberty and qualification for public office.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Kansas, two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of Representatives and two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate concurring therein:

Section 1. The following proposition to amend the constitution of the state of Kansas shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval or rejection: Section 7 of the bill of rights of the constitution of the state of Kansas is hereby amended to read as follows:

“§ 7. Religious liberty; property qualification for public office. The right to worship God according to the dictates of conscience shall never be infringed; nor shall any person be compelled to attend or support any form of worship; nor shall any control of or interference with the rights of conscience be permitted, nor any preference be given by law to any religious establishment or mode of worship. *However, property belonging to the state may be used to display the Ten Commandments, and the right to display the Ten Commandments on property owned or administered by a public school or public body in this state is not restrained or abridged.* No religious test or property qualification shall be required for any office of public trust, nor for any vote at any election, nor shall any person be incompetent to testify on account of religious belief.”

Sec. 2. The following statement shall be printed on the ballot with the amendment as a whole:

“Explanatory statement. The purpose of this amendment is to provide that property belonging to the state may be used to display the Ten Commandments and that the right to display the Ten Commandments on property owned or administered by a public school or public body is not restrained or abridged.

“A vote for this amendment favors providing for display of the Ten Commandments on state property and property owned or administered by a public school or public body.

“A vote against this amendment favors retaining the present lan-

guage of the constitution regarding religious freedom.”

Sec. 3. This resolution, if approved by two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of Representatives, and two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate shall be entered on the journals, together with the yeas and nays. The secretary of state shall cause this resolution to be published as provided by law and shall cause the proposed amendment to be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election in the year 2002 unless a special election is called at a sooner date by concurrent resolution of the legislature, in which case it shall be submitted to the electors of the state at the special election.

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