

S.F. No. 47 – Resolution; Equal Rights Amendment

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Date: March 2, 2023

S.F. 47 is a resolution memorializing Congress to resolve that the requirements to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) have been met and to pass a joint resolution removing the deadline for ratification on ERA. The Secretary of State is directed to prepare copies of this memorial and transit them to the President of the United States and Congress.

The ERA is a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution which provides that “equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.” The ERA was sent to the states for ratification on March 22, 1972 with a seven-year deadline for the ratification process. In 1979, Congress granted a ratification deadline extension until June 30, 1982. If ratified by at least 38 states, the ERA would be the 28th amendment to the United States Constitution. Minnesota ratified the ERA on February 8, 1973. Several states have also rescinded their prior ratifications.

The ERA did not meet full ratification by the 1982 deadline. In recent years, several states have ratified the ERA. In January 2020, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA. The ERA provides that the amendment takes effect two years after the last constitutionally necessary state ratification occurs.

On February 28, 2023, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee heard testimony on S.J.Res. 4, a joint resolution removing the deadline for ERA ratification.