

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE STATE OF VERMONT

Subject: Declaration of rights; clarifying the prohibition on slavery and
indentured servitude

PROPOSAL 2

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to
clarify that slavery and indentured servitude in any form are prohibited.

Sec. 2. Article 1 of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

Article 1. [All persons born free; their natural rights; slavery and indentured
servitude prohibited]

That all persons are born equally free and independent, and have certain
natural, inherent, and unalienable rights, amongst which are the enjoying and
defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and
pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety; therefore ~~no person born in this
country, or brought from over sea, ought to be holden by law, to serve any
person as a servant, slave or apprentice, after arriving to the age of twenty one
years, unless bound by the person's own consent, after arriving to such age, or
bound by law for the payment of debts, damages, fines, costs, or the like~~
slavery and indentured servitude in any form are prohibited.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

The amendment set forth in Sec. 2 shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Vermont on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November 2022 when ratified and adopted by the people of this State in accordance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 32.