



## **Remove the Statutory Prohibitions on Same-Sex Marriages** **Support SB 3 & SB 1007**

### **WHAT THE BILL DOES:**

- This bill repeals the statutory prohibitions on same-sex marriages and civil unions or other arrangements between persons of the same sex purporting to bestow the privileges and obligations of marriage.

### **THE FACTS:**

- Due to the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, these prohibitions are no longer valid.
- In *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the Supreme Court held that the Constitution does not permit the state to bar same-sex couples from marriage on the same terms as accorded to couples of the opposite sex. <sup>1</sup>
- The court further held that the right to marriage was a constitutional right under the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. <sup>2</sup>

### **WHY WE SUPPORT IT:**

- Virginia's current statutory prohibitions on same-sex marriage and civil unions are no longer good law under the Supreme Court's holding in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.
- The current prohibitions must be repealed so that same-sex couples may enjoy the right to marriage guaranteed in the United States Constitution.

*Equality Virginia is the leading advocacy organization in Virginia seeking equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. Contact EV at [info@equalityvirginia.org](mailto:info@equalityvirginia.org) or 804-643-4816.*