

In addition, Cuomo is proposing that recipients of Social Security who have annual incomes of more than \$25,000 as individuals or \$32,000 as married couples, will be relieved of the state portion of a new tax being imposed by the federal government.

This was described as an "uncoupling" of the income taxes, which, without action by the Legislature, would automatically rise in tandem on a state and federal level.

If approved, the measure would affect 250,000 New Yorkers in 150,000 households, according to the governor's office.

Meanwhile, the ERA proposal would bring New York into conformity with 16 states that have passed such measures. In 1972, both houses of the New York Legislature ratified the national version of ERA, which was later defeated.

The state Constitution requires approval by two consecutive yearly votes of the Legislature for any amendments. That was done here for ERA in 1974 and 1975, which in turn put the matter to a statewide referendum.

But at the polls in 1975, the amendment was defeated by a vote of 1,950,993 to 1,470,213.

As proposed by Cuomo today, the amendment would read, "The quality of rights under law shall not be denied or abridged by the State of New York or by any subdivision thereof on account of sex."