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House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 1 of Article IX of the State Constitution to establish minimum salaries for full-time public school teachers.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the following amendment to Section 1 of Article IX of the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE IX

EDUCATION

SECTION 1. Public education.—

(a) The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders. Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education and for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of institutions of higher learning and other public education programs that the needs of the people may require. To assure that children attending public schools obtain a high quality education, the legislature shall make adequate provision to ensure that, by the beginning of the 2010 school year, there are a sufficient number

29 | of classrooms so that:

30 |       (1) The maximum number of students who are assigned to  
31 | each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for  
32 | prekindergarten through grade 3 does not exceed 18 students;

33 |       (2) The maximum number of students who are assigned to  
34 | each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for  
35 | grades 4 through 8 does not exceed 22 students; and

36 |       (3) The maximum number of students who are assigned to  
37 | each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for  
38 | grades 9 through 12 does not exceed 25 students.

39 |

40 | The class size requirements of this subsection do not apply to  
41 | extracurricular classes. Payment of the costs associated with  
42 | reducing class size to meet these requirements is the  
43 | responsibility of the state and not of local school ~~schools~~  
44 | districts. Beginning with the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the  
45 | legislature shall provide sufficient funds to reduce the average  
46 | number of students in each classroom by at least two students  
47 | per year until the maximum number of students per classroom does  
48 | not exceed the requirements of this subsection.

49 |       (b) By 2015, the salary for a new full-time teacher in a  
50 | public school must be at least equal to the national average  
51 | salary for a new full-time teacher in a public school, as  
52 | provided by law. By 2015, the average salary for an experienced  
53 | full-time teacher in a public school must be at least equal to  
54 | the national average salary for an experienced full-time teacher  
55 | in a public school, as provided by law. Any increase in the  
56 | salaries for new full-time teachers and for experienced full-

57 | time teachers in a public school, as a result of adjustments  
 58 | required by this subsection, is independent of employee benefits  
 59 | and may not alter, jeopardize, or decrease existing employee  
 60 | benefits. The state, rather than the school districts, shall  
 61 | fund any salary increase required by this subsection. Nothing in  
 62 | this subsection shall impair collective bargaining.

63 | (c)~~(b)~~ Every four-year old child in Florida shall be  
 64 | provided by the State a high quality pre-kindergarten learning  
 65 | opportunity in the form of an early childhood development and  
 66 | education program which shall be voluntary, high quality, free,  
 67 | and delivered according to professionally accepted standards. An  
 68 | early childhood development and education program means an  
 69 | organized program designed to address and enhance each child's  
 70 | ability to make age appropriate progress in an appropriate range  
 71 | of settings in the development of language and cognitive  
 72 | capabilities and emotional, social, regulatory and moral  
 73 | capacities through education in basic skills and such other  
 74 | skills as the Legislature may determine to be appropriate.

75 | (d)~~(e)~~ The early childhood education and development  
 76 | programs provided by subsection (c) ~~reason of subparagraph (b)~~  
 77 | shall be implemented no later than the beginning of the 2005  
 78 | school year through funds generated in addition to those used  
 79 | for existing education, health, and development programs.  
 80 | Existing education, health, and development programs are those  
 81 | funded by the State as of January 1, 2002 that provided for  
 82 | child or adult education, health care, or development.

83 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be  
 84 | placed on the ballot:

HJR 139

2013

## 85 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

## 86 ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1

87 MINIMUM SALARIES FOR NEW AND EXPERIENCED FULL-TIME TEACHERS  
88 IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—This proposed amendment to the State  
89 Constitution sets minimum salaries for new and experienced full-  
90 time teachers in public schools. By 2015, the minimum salary for  
91 a new full-time teacher in a public school must be at least the  
92 national average salary for new full-time teachers in public  
93 schools. By 2015, the average salary for an experienced full-  
94 time teacher in a public school must be at least the national  
95 average salary for experienced full-time teachers in public  
96 schools. The salary adjustments required by this amendment are  
97 independent of employee benefits and must not result in  
98 decreased employee benefits. The state, rather than the school  
99 districts, must fund any required salary increases.