

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

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26 attending public schools obtain a high quality education, the  
27 legislature shall make adequate provision to ensure that, by the  
28 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 2019, the salary of a new full-time teacher in a  
50 public school must be at least equal to the national average

51 salary of a new full-time teacher in a public school. By 2019,  
52 the average salary of an experienced full-time teacher in a  
53 public school must be at least equal to the national average  
54 salary of an experienced full-time teacher in a public school.  
55 Any increase in the salaries of new and experienced full-time  
56 teachers in public schools that occurs as a result of  
57 adjustments required by this subsection is independent of  
58 employee benefits and may not alter, jeopardize, or decrease  
59 existing employee benefits. The state, rather than the school  
60 districts, shall fund any salary increase required by this  
61 subsection. Nothing in this subsection shall impair collective  
62 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

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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:

85 | CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

86 | ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1

87 | MINIMUM SALARIES FOR FULL-TIME PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS.—  
88 | Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to establish  
89 | minimum salaries for new and experienced full-time teachers in  
90 | public schools. By 2019, the minimum salaries of new and  
91 | experienced full-time teachers in public schools must be at  
92 | least the national average salaries of new and experienced full-  
93 | time teachers in public schools. Any salary adjustments are  
94 | independent of employee benefits and may not result in decreased  
95 | employee benefits or impair collective bargaining. The state  
96 | must fund any required salary increases.