

By Representative Bendross-Mindingall

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House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing the amendment of Section 1 of Article IX of the State Constitution, relating to education, to prescribe a maximum number of students in public school classrooms for various grade levels.

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

That the following amendment of 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.

(b) 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. The legislature shall make adequate provisions to ensure that, by the beginning of the 2010 school year, there are a sufficient number of classrooms so that:

1. The maximum number of students who are assigned to each certified classroom teacher who is teaching in his or her

1 field in public school classrooms for prekindergarten through
2 grade 3 does not exceed 16 students;

3 2. The maximum number of students who are assigned to
4 each certified classroom teacher who is teaching in his or her
5 field in public school classrooms for grades 4 through 8 does
6 not exceed 20 students; and

7 3. The maximum number of students who are assigned to
8 each certified classroom teacher who is teaching in his or her
9 field in public school classrooms for grades 9 through 12 does
10 not exceed 25 students.

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12 The limitations in this subsection do not apply to
13 extracurricular classes. Payment of the costs associated with
14 reducing classroom size to achieve these limitations is the
15 responsibility of the state and not of the local school
16 districts. Beginning with the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the
17 legislature shall provide each year sufficient funds to reduce
18 the average number of students in each classroom by at least
19 one student per year until the maximum number of students per
20 classroom does not exceed the limitations prescribed in this
21 subsection.

22 (c) Adequate provision shall be made by law and for
23 the establishment, maintenance, and operation of institutions
24 of higher learning and other public education programs that
25 the needs of the people may require.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
27 placed on the ballot:

28 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

29 ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1

30 CLASSROOM SIZE LIMITATIONS; STATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR
31 COSTS.--Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to

1 require the Legislature to ensure that there are enough
2 classrooms to keep the maximum number of students in public
3 school classrooms for grades prekindergarten through 12th
4 grade from exceeding specified maximum numbers, and to require
5 the state, not the school districts, to pay the associated
6 costs.
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