



HJR 1571

2003

House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 1 of Article IX of the State Constitution to require class size reduction only in prekindergarten through grade 3.

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

That the amendment to Section 1 of Article IX of the State Constitution set forth below is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of Florida for approval or rejection at the general election to be held in November 2004:

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, the executive branch, and the school board of each school district shall make adequate provision to ensure that, by the beginning of the 2010 school year, there are a sufficient number of classrooms so that:



HJR 1571

2003

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

49 (b) Every four-year-old child in Florida shall be provided
50 by the State a high quality pre-kindergarten learning
51 opportunity in the form of an early childhood development and
52 education program which shall be voluntary, high quality, free,
53 and delivered according to professionally accepted standards. An
54 early childhood development and education program means an
55 organized program designed to address and enhance each child's
56 ability to make age appropriate progress in an appropriate range
57 of settings in the development of language and cognitive
58 capabilities and emotional, social, regulatory and moral



HJR 1571

2003

59 capacities through education in basic skills and such other
60 skills as the Legislature may determine to be appropriate.

61 (c) The early childhood education and development programs
62 provided by reason of subparagraph (b) shall be implemented no
63 later than the beginning of the 2005 school year through funds
64 generated in addition to those used for existing education,
65 health, and development programs. Existing education, health,
66 and development programs are those funded by the State as of
67 January 1, 2002 that provided for child or adult education,
68 health care, or development.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the title and substance of the
70 amendment proposed herein shall appear on the ballot as follows:

71 FOCUSED CLASS SIZE REDUCTION

72 FOR PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD GRADE

73 Proposes an amendment to Section 1 of Article IX of the
74 State Constitution to continue the class size reduction for
75 prekindergarten through grade 3 students adopted in the 2002
76 general election for public schools, but eliminates the class
77 size reduction requirements in grades 4 through 12.