



HJR 1571

2003
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CHAMBER ACTION

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The Committee on Education K-20 recommends the following:

Committee Substitute

Remove the entire bill and insert:

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,



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29 | secure, and high quality system of free public schools that
30 | allows students to obtain a high quality education and for the
31 | establishment, maintenance, and operation of institutions of
32 | higher learning and other public education programs that the
33 | needs of the people may require. To assure that children
34 | attending public schools obtain a high quality education, the
35 | legislature shall make adequate provision to ensure that, by the
36 | beginning of the 2010 school year, there are a sufficient number
37 | of classrooms so that:

38 | (1) the maximum number of students who are assigned to
39 | each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for
40 | prekindergarten through grade 3 does not exceed 18 students;

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

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

47 |
48 | The class size requirements of this subsection do not apply to
49 | extracurricular classes. Payment of the costs associated with
50 | reducing class size to meet these requirements is the
51 | responsibility of the state and not of local schools districts.
52 | Beginning with the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the legislature shall
53 | provide sufficient funds to reduce the average number of
54 | students in each classroom by at least two students per year
55 | until the maximum number of students per classroom does not
56 | exceed the requirements of this subsection.



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

69 | (c) The early childhood education and development programs
 70 | provided by reason of subparagraph (b) shall be implemented no
 71 | later than the beginning of the 2005 school year through funds
 72 | generated in addition to those used for existing education,
 73 | health, and development programs. Existing education, health,
 74 | and development programs are those funded by the State as of
 75 | January 1, 2002 that provided for child or adult education,
 76 | health care, or development.

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

79 | FOCUSED CLASS SIZE REDUCTION

80 | FOR PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD GRADE

81 | Proposes an amendment to Section 1 of Article IX of the
 82 | State Constitution to continue the class size reduction in
 83 | prekindergarten through grade 3 adopted in the 2002 general



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84 | election for public schools, but eliminates the class size
85 | reduction requirements in grades 4 through 12.