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House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 1 of Article IX and the creation of Section 26 of Article XII of the State Constitution relating to public education.

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

That the amendment to Section 1 of Article IX and the creation of Section 26 of Article XII of the State Constitution set forth below are agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of Florida 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

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29 beginning of the 2007 ~~2010~~ school year, there are a sufficient
30 number of classrooms so that:

31 (1) The district average ~~maximum~~ number of students who
32 are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school
33 classrooms for prekindergarten through grade 3 does not exceed
34 18 students;

35 (2) The district average ~~maximum~~ number of students who
36 are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school
37 classrooms for grades 4 through 8 does not exceed 22 students;
38 and

39 (3) The district average ~~maximum~~ number of students who
40 are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school
41 classrooms for grades 9 through 12 does not exceed 25 students.
42

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

53 (b) The minimum salary for each public school teacher
54 shall be no less than \$35,000 and shall be higher than the
55 national average beginning pay for public school teachers as
56 provided by law.

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85 which establishes a minimum teacher salary, shall take effect
86 July 1 following approval by the electors.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the title and substance of the
88 amendments proposed herein shall appear on the ballot as
89 follows:

90 REVISING MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE REQUIREMENTS

91 AND ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM TEACHER SALARY

92 Proposes an amendment to Section 1 of Article IX and the
93 creation of Section 26 of Article XII of the State Constitution
94 to provide that maximum class size requirements shall be based
95 on the district average number of students who are assigned to a
96 teacher in specified grades; to move forward the date for
97 implementation of the class size requirements; to require that
98 the minimum salary for each public school teacher shall be no
99 less than \$35,000 and shall be higher than the national average
100 beginning pay for public school teachers as provided by law; and
101 to provide for taking effect July 1 following approval by the
102 electors.