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
beginning of the 20072010 school year, there are a sufficient number of classrooms so that:
(1) The district average maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for prekindergarten through grade 3 does not exceed 18 students;
(2) The district average maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for grades 4 through 8 does not exceed 22 students; and
(3) The district average maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for grades 9 through 12 does not exceed 25 students.

The class size requirements of this subsection do not apply to extracurricular classes. Payment of the costs associated with reducing class size to meet these requirements is the responsibility of the state and not of local school schools districts. Beginning with the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the legislature shall provide sufficient funds to reduce the district average class size number of students in each classroom by at least two students per year until the district average Class size maximum number of students per classroom does not exceed the requirements of this subsection.
(b) The minimum salary for each public school teacher shall be no less than $\$ 35,000$ and shall be higher than the national average beginning pay for public school teachers as provided by law.

Page 2 of 4
CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
(c) Every four-year old child in Florida shall be provided by the State a high quality prekindergarten prekindergaten learning opportunity in the form of an early childhood development and education program which shall be voluntary, high quality, free, and delivered according to professionally accepted standards. An early childhood development and education program means an organized program designed to address and enhance each child's ability to make age appropriate progress in an appropriate range of settings in the development of language and cognitive capabilities and emotional, social, regulatory and moral capacities through education in basic skills and such other skills as the Legislature may determine to be appropriate.
(d)(c) The early childhood education and development programs provided by reason of subsection (c) subpararaph (b) shall be implemented no later than the beginning of the 2005 school year through funds generated in addition to those used for existing education, health, and development programs. Existing education, health, and development programs are those funded by the State as of January 1, 2002, that provided for child or adult education, health care, or development.

ARTICLE XII
SCHEDULE
SECTION 26. Maximum class size and minimum teacher salary.--The amendment to Section 1 of Article IX relating to public education, which provides that maximum class size requirements shall be based on the district average number of students who are assigned to a teacher in specified grades and

Page 3 of 4
CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
which establishes a minimum teacher salary, shall take effect July 1 following approval by the electors.

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

REVISING MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE REQUIREMENTS
AND ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM TEACHER SALARY
Proposes an amendment to Section 1 of Article IX and the creation of Section 26 of Article XII of the State Constitution to provide that maximum class size requirements shall be based on the district average number of students who are assigned to a teacher in specified grades; to move forward the date for implementation of the class size requirements; to require that the minimum salary for each public school teacher shall be no less than $\$ 35,000$ and shall be higher than the national average beginning pay for public school teachers as provided by law; and to provide for taking effect July 1 following approval by the electors.

Page 4 of 4
CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

