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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:

8 That the amendment to Section 1 of Article IX and the 9 creation of Section 26 of Article XII of the State Constitution 10 set forth below are agreed to and shall be submitted to the 11 electors of Florida for approval or rejection at the next 12 general election or at an earlier special election specifically 13 authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE IX

EDUCATION

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SECTION 1. Public education .--

The education of children is a fundamental value of 17 (a) 18 the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a 19 paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the 20 education of all children residing within its borders. Adequate 21 provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that 22 23 allows students to obtain a high quality education and for the 24 establishment, maintenance, and operation of institutions of 25 higher learning and other public education programs that the 26 needs of the people may require. To assure that children 27 attending public schools obtain a high quality education, the 28 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 <u>district average</u> 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 <u>district average</u> 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 <u>district average</u> 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.

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 legislature shall provide sufficient funds to reduce the 48 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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57 (c)(b) Every four-year old child in Florida shall be 58 provided by the State a high quality prekindergarten pre-59 kindergarten learning opportunity in the form of an early 60 childhood development and education program which shall be 61 voluntary, high quality, free, and delivered according to 62 professionally accepted standards. An early childhood 63 development and education program means an organized program 64 designed to address and enhance each child's ability to make age 65 appropriate progress in an appropriate range of settings in the 66 development of language and cognitive capabilities and emotional, social, regulatory and moral capacities through 67 education in basic skills and such other skills as the 68 69 Legislature may determine to be appropriate.

(d)(c) The early childhood education and development 70 71 programs provided by reason of subsection (c) subparagraph (b) 72 shall be implemented no later than the beginning of the 2005 73 school year through funds generated in addition to those used 74 for existing education, health, and development programs. 75 Existing education, health, and development programs are those 76 funded by the State as of January 1, 2002, that provided for 77 child or adult education, health care, or development.

ARTICLE XII

SCHEDULE

80	SECTION 26. Maximum class size and minimum teacher
81	salaryThe amendment to Section 1 of Article IX relating to
82	public education, which provides that maximum class size
83	requirements shall be based on the district average number of
84	students who are assigned to a teacher in specified grades and

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85 which establishes a minimum teacher salary, shall take effect 86 July 1 following approval by the electors. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the title and substance of the 87 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 creation of Section 26 of Article XII of the State Constitution 93 94 to provide that maximum class size requirements shall be based 95 on the district average number of students who are assigned to a teacher in specified grades; to move forward the date for 96 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 to provide for taking effect July 1 following approval by the 101 102 electors.

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