

By the Committee on Judiciary

590-2093-06

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Senate Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing the creation of
Section 8 of Article IX of the State
Constitution relating to education.

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

That the following creation of Section 8 of Article IX
of the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted
to the electors of this state 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 8. Equal opportunity to obtain a high quality
education.--Every child deserves an equal opportunity to
obtain a high quality education, regardless of his or her
family's income, religion, or race.

(a) Funding for a high quality public K-12 education
through classroom instruction is fundamental. To make
adequate provision for a high quality public K-12 education,
at least sixty-five percent of school funding received by
school districts shall be spent on classroom instruction,
rather than administration. Classroom instruction and
administration shall be defined by law.

(b) Students in prekindergarten through college who
have disabilities, are economically disadvantaged, or whose
parents request alternatives to traditional public education
programs may participate, as provided by law, in education
programs that include non-public schools. The legislature may
enact and publicly fund prekindergarten through college

1 education programs, without regard to the religious nature of
2 any participant or non-public provider, notwithstanding any
3 other provision of this Article or Section 3 of Article I of
4 this constitution.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
6 placed on the ballot:

7 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

8 ARTICLE IX, SECTION 8

9 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN A HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION.--

10 Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to provide
11 that every child deserves an equal opportunity to obtain a
12 high quality education, regardless of his or her family's
13 income, religion, or race; to provide that funding for high
14 quality public K-12 education through classroom instruction is
15 fundamental; to provide that to make adequate provision for a
16 high quality public K-12 education, at least sixty-five
17 percent of school funding received by school districts shall
18 be spent on classroom instruction rather than administration;
19 to provide that classroom instruction and administration shall
20 be defined by law; to provide that students in prekindergarten
21 through college who have disabilities, are economically
22 disadvantaged, or whose parents request alternatives to
23 traditional public education programs may participate, as
24 provided by law, in education programs that include non-public
25 schools; and to provide that the Legislature may enact and
26 publicly fund prekindergarten through college education
27 programs, without regard to the religious nature of any
28 participant or non-public provider, notwithstanding any other
29 provision of this Article or of Section 3 of Article I of the
30 State Constitution.

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1 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
2 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
3 Senate Joint Resolution 2170
4 The committee substitute:
5 -- Adds a new section 8 to the existing Education Article of
6 the constitution.
7 -- States that every child deserves an equal opportunity to
8 obtain a high quality education;
9 -- Provides that funding for a high quality public education
10 for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade is
11 fundamental;
12 -- Requires at least 65 percent of school funding received
13 by school districts to be spent on classroom instruction,
14 rather than administration;
15 -- Provides that "classroom instruction" and
16 "administration" shall be defined by law;
17 -- Allows students in prekindergarten through college to
18 participate in education programs, as created by law,
19 that utilize non-public schools; and
20 -- Authorizes the Legislature to enact and publicly fund
21 prekindergarten through college education programs,
22 without regard to the religious nature of any participant
23 or non-public provider.
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