

HJR 7093

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House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 4 of Article IX of the State Constitution to provide the option to divide school districts.

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

That the following amendment to Section 4 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 4. School districts; school boards.--

(a) Each county shall constitute a school district; provided, two or more contiguous counties, upon vote of the electors of each county pursuant to law, may be combined into one school district. In each school district there shall be a school board composed of five or more members chosen by vote of the electors in a nonpartisan election for appropriately staggered terms of four years, as provided by law.

(b) The school board shall operate, control and supervise all free public schools within the school district and determine the rate of school district taxes within the limits prescribed herein. Two or more school districts may operate and finance joint educational programs.

28 (c) Upon vote of the electors of the county pursuant to
 29 general law, a school district may be divided into two or more
 30 school districts, each having no fewer than 25,000 students. A
 31 school district is not required to exercise its option to divide
 32 the school district pursuant to this subsection. However,
 33 general law authorizing division of a school district shall
 34 provide for more than one method by which the question of
 35 dividing the school district into two or more school districts
 36 is placed on the ballot, including an initiative by the electors
 37 of the county. School district taxes for the school districts
 38 created pursuant to this subsection shall be imposed countywide
 39 and distributed to the school districts in an equitable and
 40 nondiscriminatory manner as provided by general law. The rate of
 41 school district taxes shall be determined by a board consisting
 42 of an equal number of school board members from each school
 43 district in the county as provided by general law.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
 45 placed on the ballot:

46 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

47 ARTICLE IX, SECTION 4

48 AUTHORIZING THE DIVISION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT INTO TWO OR
 49 MORE SCHOOL DISTRICTS.--Proposing an amendment to the State
 50 Constitution to provide that school districts may be divided
 51 into two or more school districts, each having no fewer than
 52 25,000 students, upon approval by vote of the electors of the
 53 county pursuant to general law; to provide that a school
 54 district is not required to exercise its option to divide the
 55 school district; to require that general law authorizing

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56 | division of a school district shall provide for more than one
57 | method by which the question of dividing the school district
58 | into two or more school districts may be placed on the ballot,
59 | including an initiative by the electors of the county; to
60 | provide that school district taxes shall be imposed countywide
61 | and distributed to the school districts in an equitable and
62 | nondiscriminatory manner as provided by general law; and to
63 | provide that the rate of school district taxes shall be
64 | determined by a board consisting of an equal number of school
65 | board members from each school district in the county as
66 | provided by general law.