

By Senator Wilson

33-00099-08

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Senate Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 1 of Article IX and the creation of Section 27 of Article XII of the State Constitution to establish beginning and average teacher salaries and to provide an effective date.

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

That the following amendment to Section 1 of Article IX and the creation of Section 27 of Article XII of the State Constitution are 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 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 2010 school

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30 | year, there are a sufficient number of classrooms so that:

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

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

37 | (3) The maximum number of students who are assigned to each
38 | teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for grades 9
39 | through 12 does not exceed 25 students.

40 |

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

50 | (b) By 2011, the beginning salary for full-time public
51 | school teachers shall be no less than the national average
52 | beginning salary for full-time public school teachers, as
53 | provided by law. By 2011, the average salary for full-time public
54 | school teachers shall be no less than the national average salary
55 | for full-time public school teachers, as provided by law. The
56 | increases in the beginning and the average full-time public
57 | school teacher salaries shall be independent of employee benefits
58 | and shall not alter, jeopardize, or decrease existing employee

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59 benefits. Payment of the costs associated with increasing
60 beginning and average teacher salaries is the responsibility of
61 the state and not of school districts. Nothing in this subsection
62 shall impair collective bargaining.

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

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

83 ARTICLE XII

84 SCHEDULE

85 SECTION 27. Beginning and average teacher salaries.--The
86 amendment to Section 1 of Article IX relating to public
87 education, which establishes beginning and average teacher

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88 salaries, shall take effect July 1, 2009.

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
90 placed on the ballot:

91 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

92 ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1;

93 ARTICLE XII, SECTION 27

94 ESTABLISHING BEGINNING AND AVERAGE TEACHER SALARIES.--

95 Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require that,
96 by 2011, the beginning salary for full-time public school
97 teachers shall be no less than the national average beginning
98 salary for full-time public school teachers, as provided by law;
99 to require that, by 2011, the average salary for full-time public
100 school teachers shall be no less than the national average salary
101 for full-time public school teachers, as provided by law; to
102 provide that the increases in the beginning and the average full-
103 time public school teacher salaries shall be independent of
104 employee benefits and shall not alter, jeopardize, or decrease
105 existing employee benefits; to provide that payment of the costs
106 associated with increasing beginning and average teacher salaries
107 is the responsibility of the state and not of school districts;
108 to provide that nothing in this amendment providing for beginning
109 and average teacher salaries shall impair collective bargaining;
110 and to provide for the amendment to take effect July 1, 2009.