

By Senator Wilson

33-00063-09

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1 Senate Joint Resolution

2 A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 1
3 of Article IX of the State Constitution to establish
4 minimum salaries for full-time public school teachers.
5

6 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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8 That the following amendment to Section 1 of Article IX of
9 the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to
10 the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next
11 general election or at an earlier special election specifically
12 authorized by law for that purpose:

13 ARTICLE IX

14 EDUCATION

15 SECTION 1. Public education.—

16 (a) The education of children is a fundamental value of the
17 people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount
18 duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education
19 of all children residing within its borders. Adequate provision
20 shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and
21 high quality system of free public schools that allows students
22 to obtain a high quality education and for the establishment,
23 maintenance, and operation of institutions of higher learning
24 and other public education programs that the needs of the people
25 may require. To assure that children attending public schools
26 obtain a high quality education, the legislature shall make
27 adequate provision to ensure that, by the beginning of the 2010
28 school year, there are a sufficient number of classrooms so
29 that:

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

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

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

39
40 The class size requirements of this subsection do not apply to
41 extracurricular classes. Payment of the costs associated with
42 reducing class size to meet these requirements is the
43 responsibility of the state and not of local schools districts.
44 Beginning with the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the legislature shall
45 provide sufficient funds to reduce the average number of
46 students in each classroom by at least two students per year
47 until the maximum number of students per classroom does not
48 exceed the requirements of this subsection.

49 (b) By 2012, the salary of a new full-time public school
50 teacher shall be no less than the national average salary for
51 new full-time public school teachers, as provided by law. By
52 2012, the average salary for experienced full-time public school
53 teachers shall be no less than the national average salary for
54 full-time public school teachers, as provided by law. Any
55 increase in the beginning and the average full-time public
56 school teacher salaries shall be independent of employee
57 benefits and shall not alter, jeopardize, or decrease existing
58 employee benefits. The state, rather than school districts, must

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59 fund any salary increase required by this section. Nothing in
60 this subsection shall impair collective bargaining.

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

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

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
82 placed on the ballot:

83 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

84 ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1

85 MINIMUM SALARIES FOR NEW AND EXPERIENCED PUBLIC SCHOOL
86 TEACHERS.—This amendment to the State Constitution sets minimum
87 salaries for new and experienced full-time public school

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88 teachers, commencing in 2012. The minimum salary for a new
89 school teacher must be the national average salary for new
90 school teachers. The average salary for experienced teachers
91 must be no less than the national average salary for public
92 school teachers. The salary adjustments required by this
93 amendment may not result in decreased benefits. The state,
94 rather than school districts, must fund any required salary
95 increases.